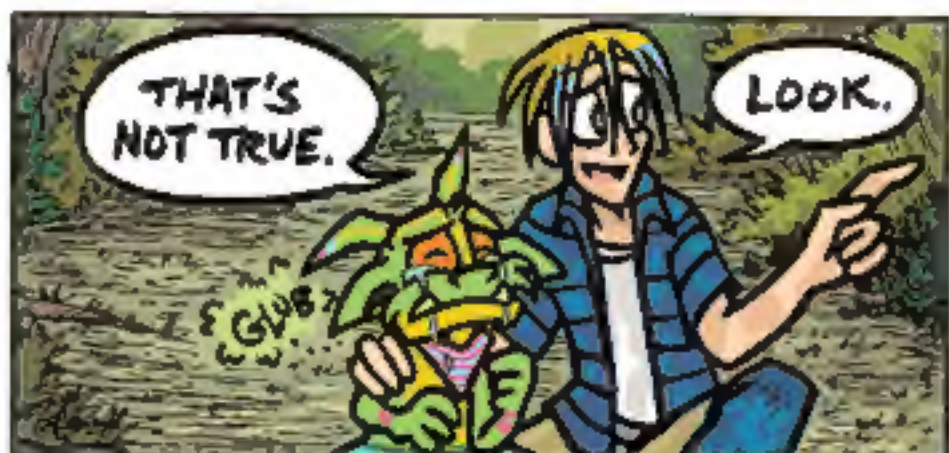
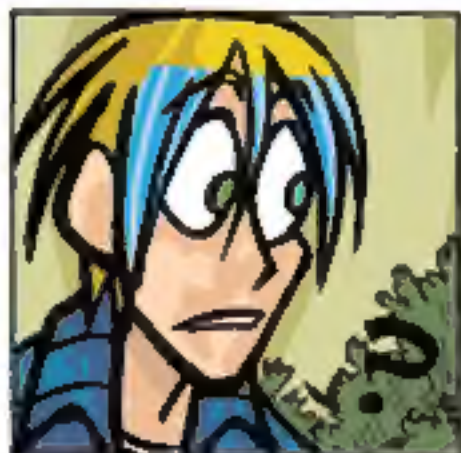
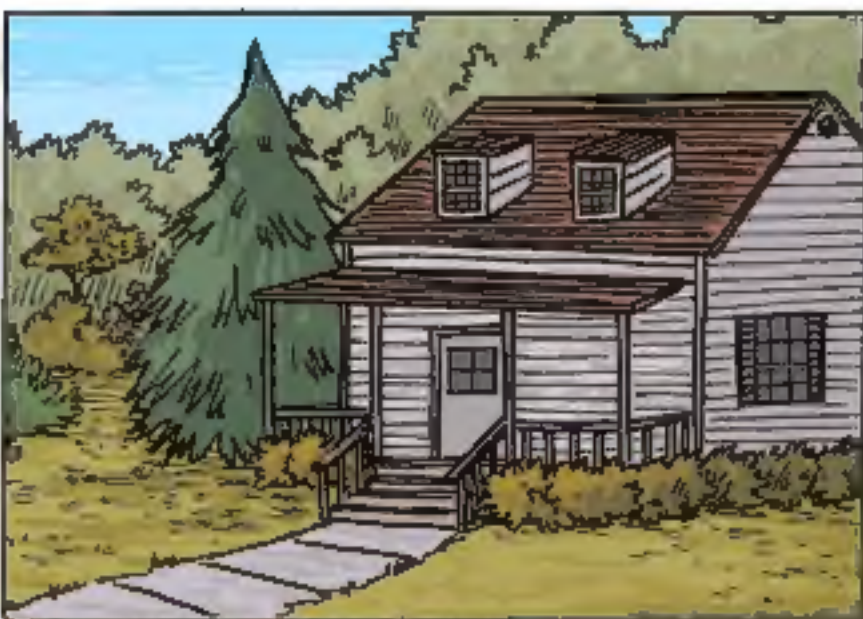
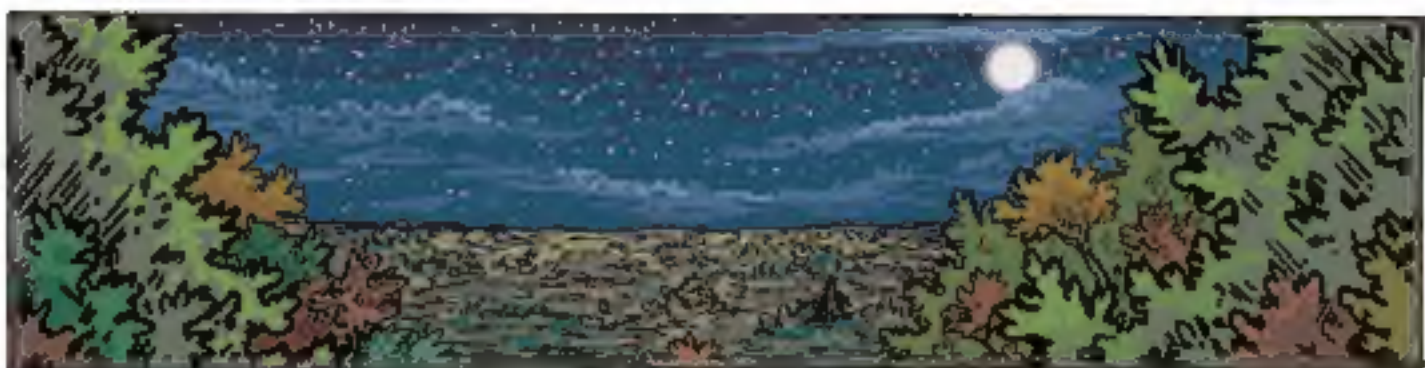
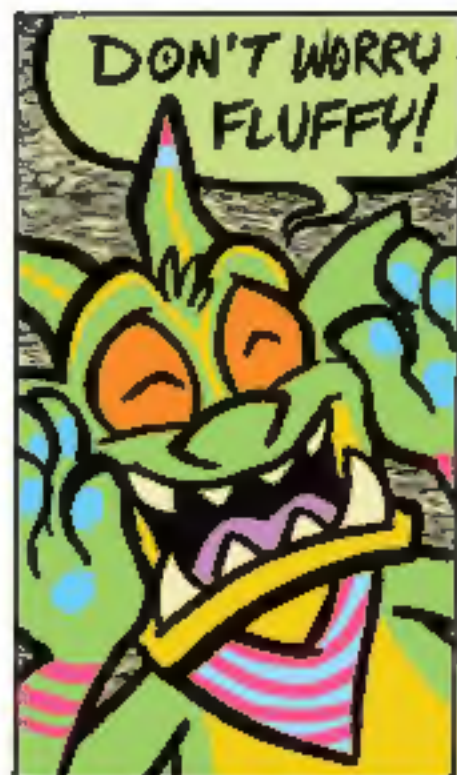
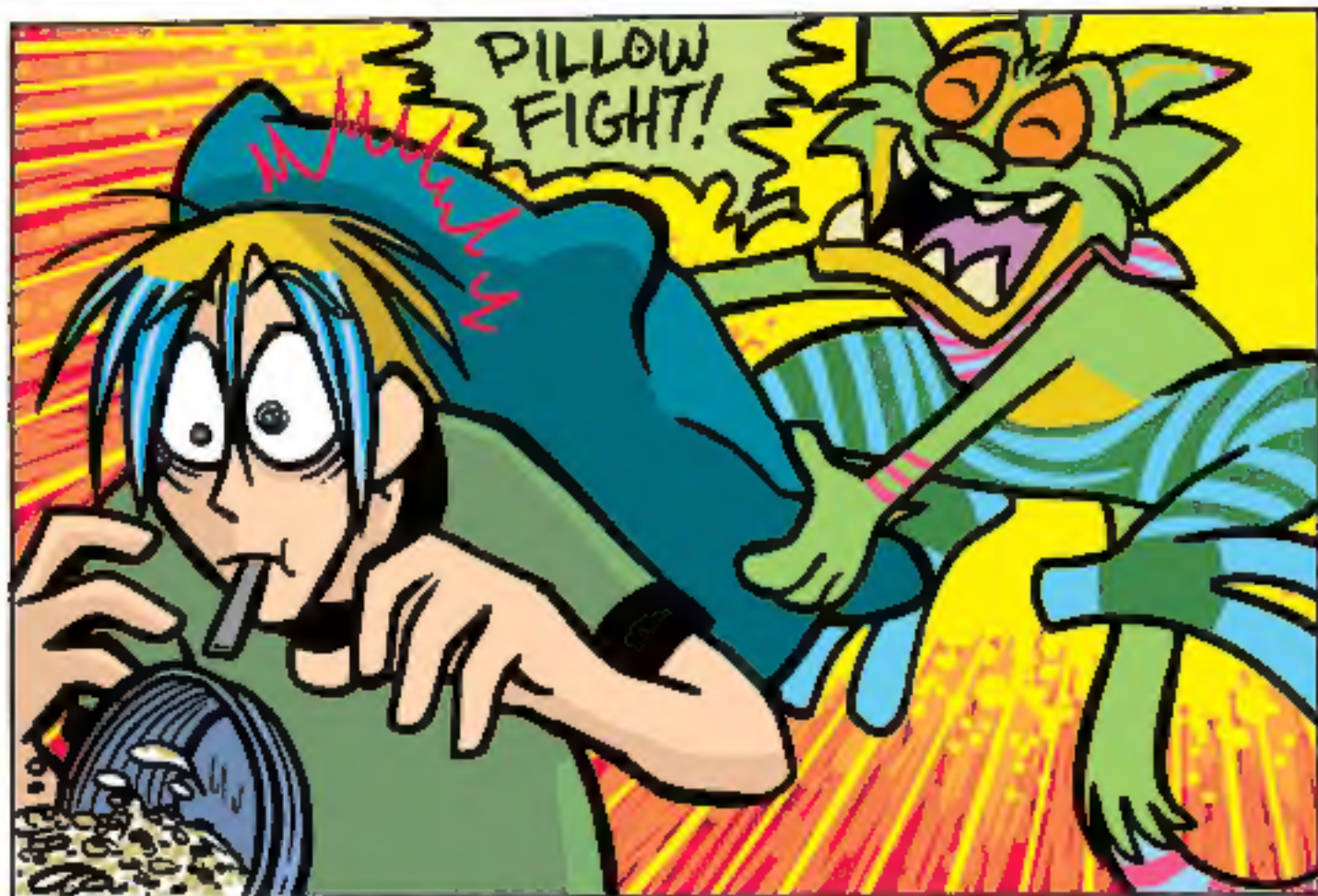
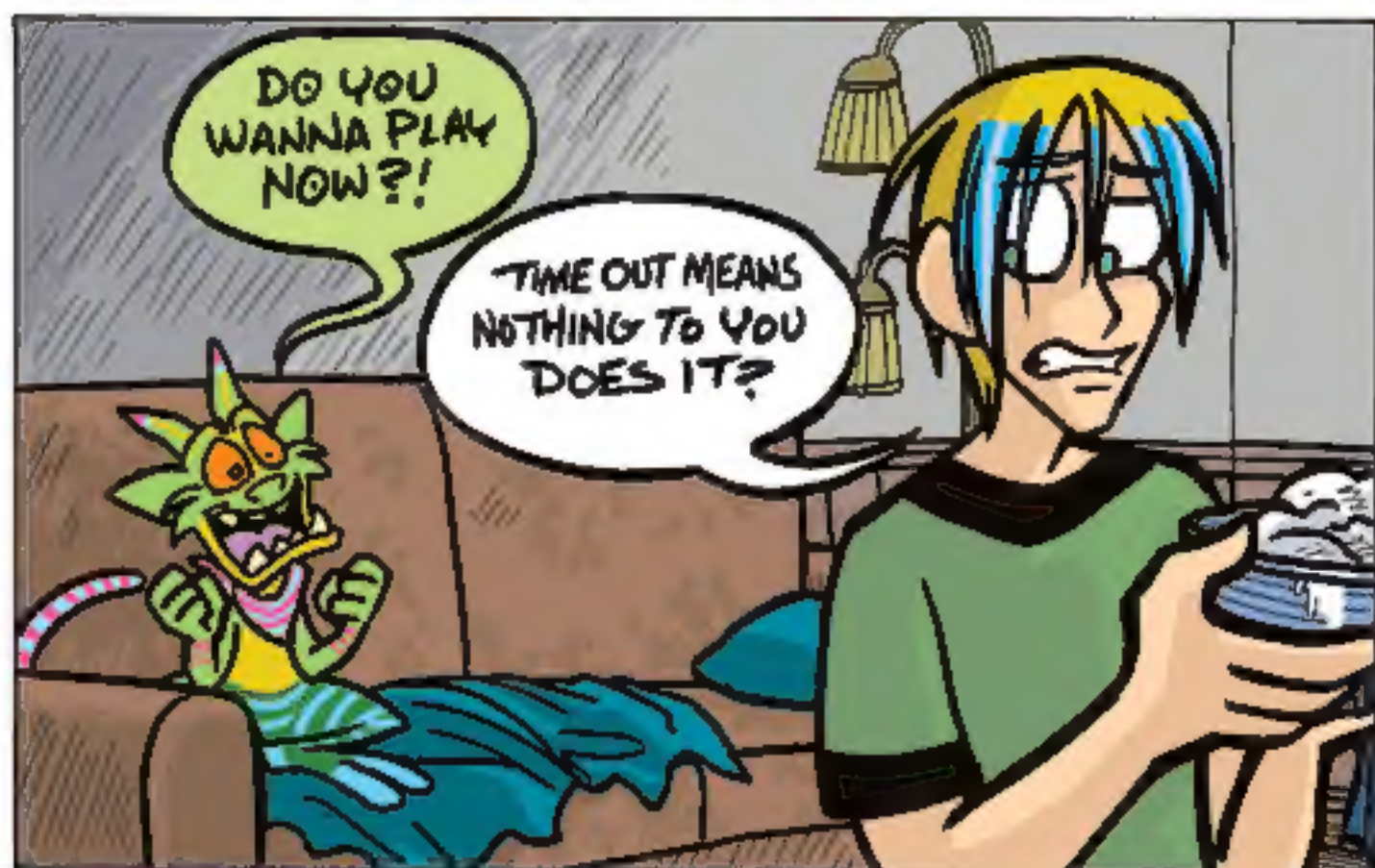
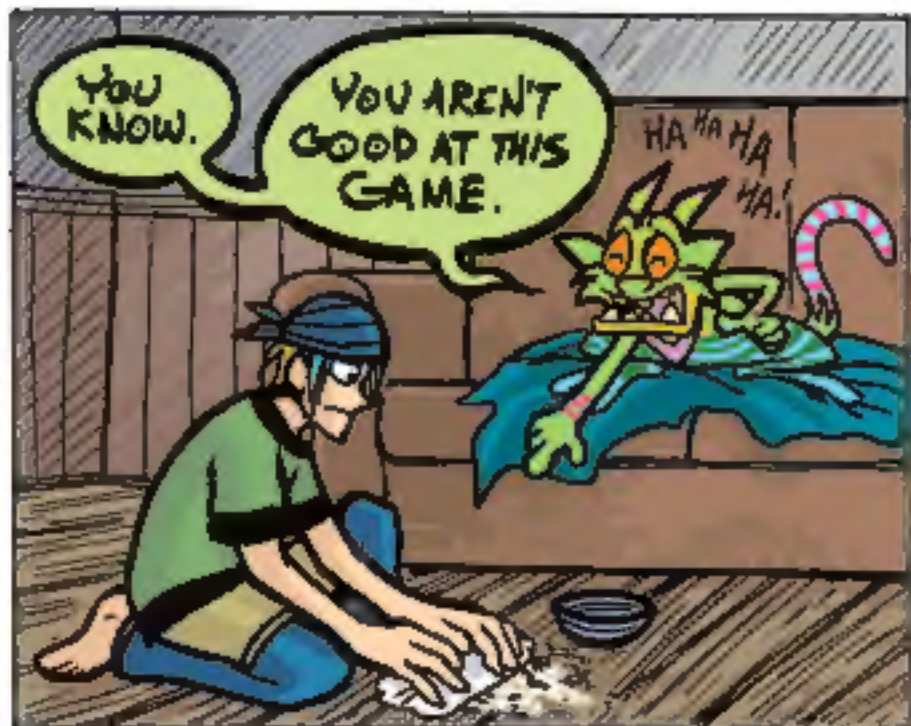


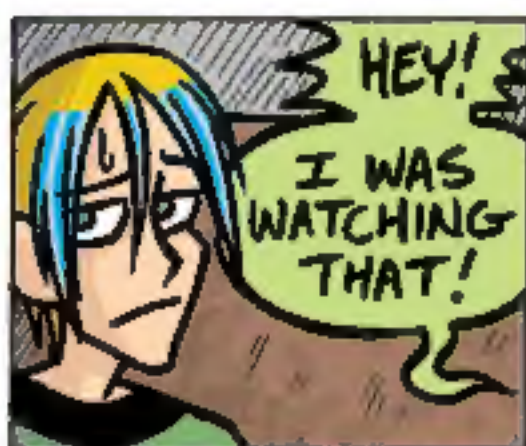


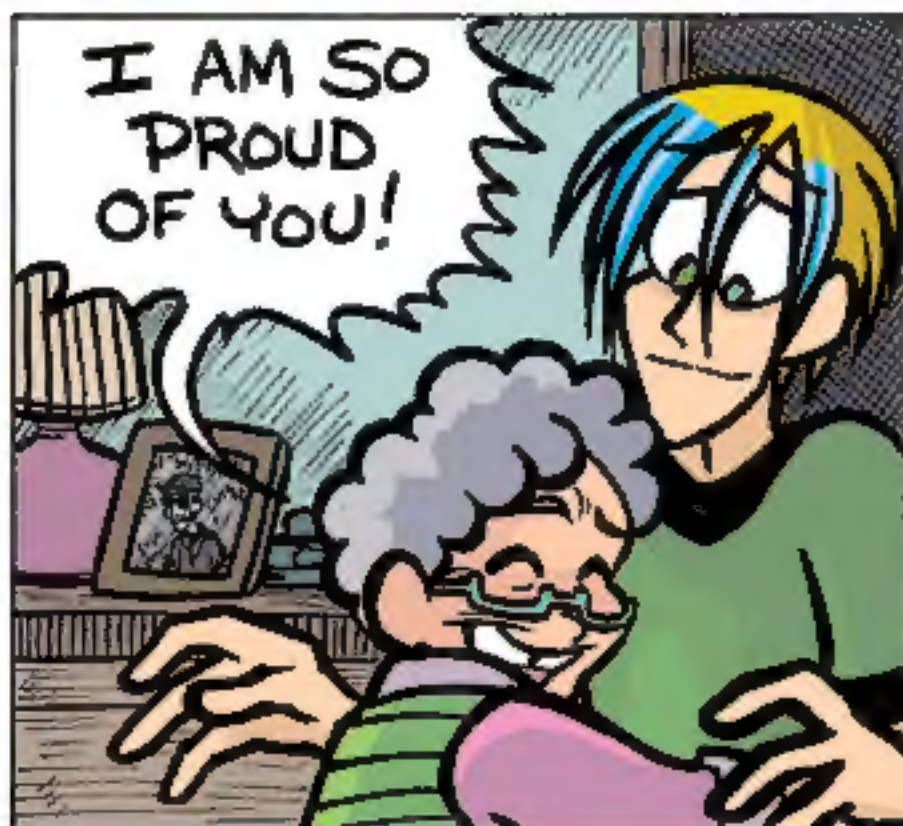








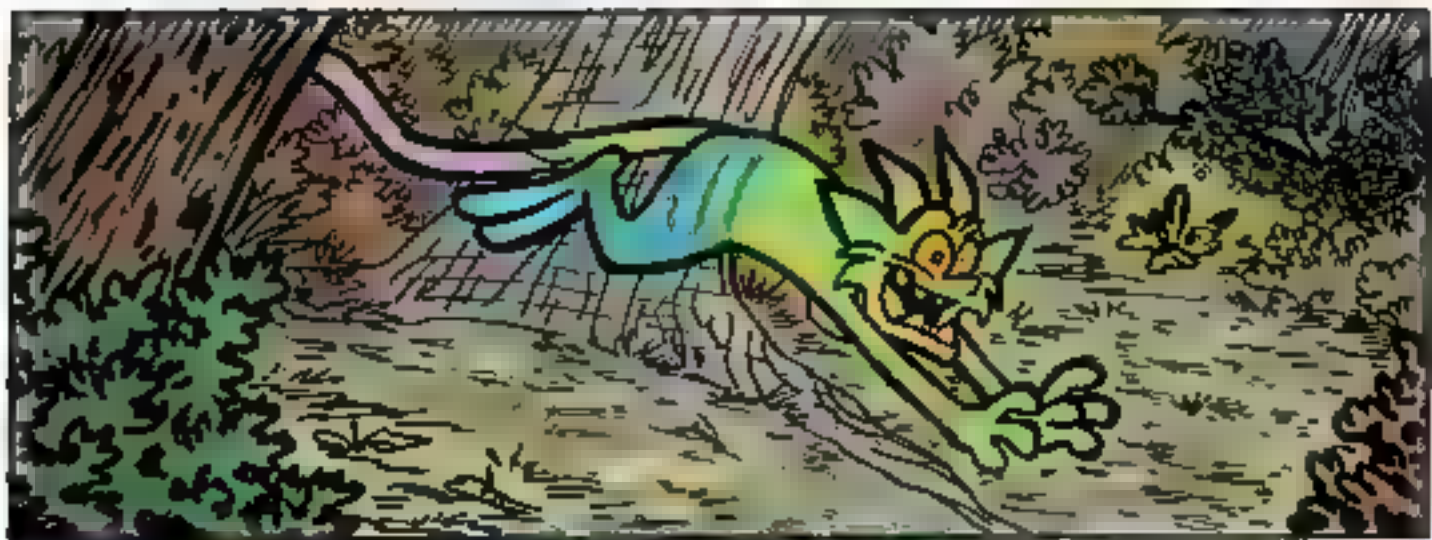


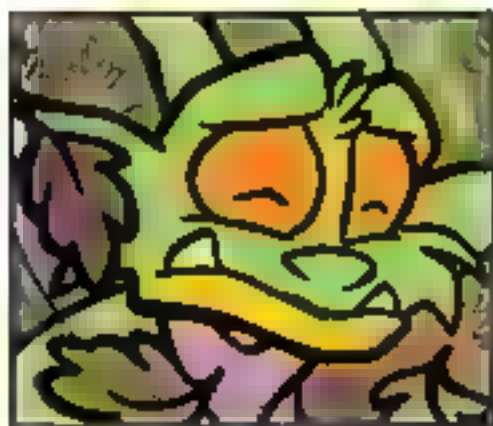
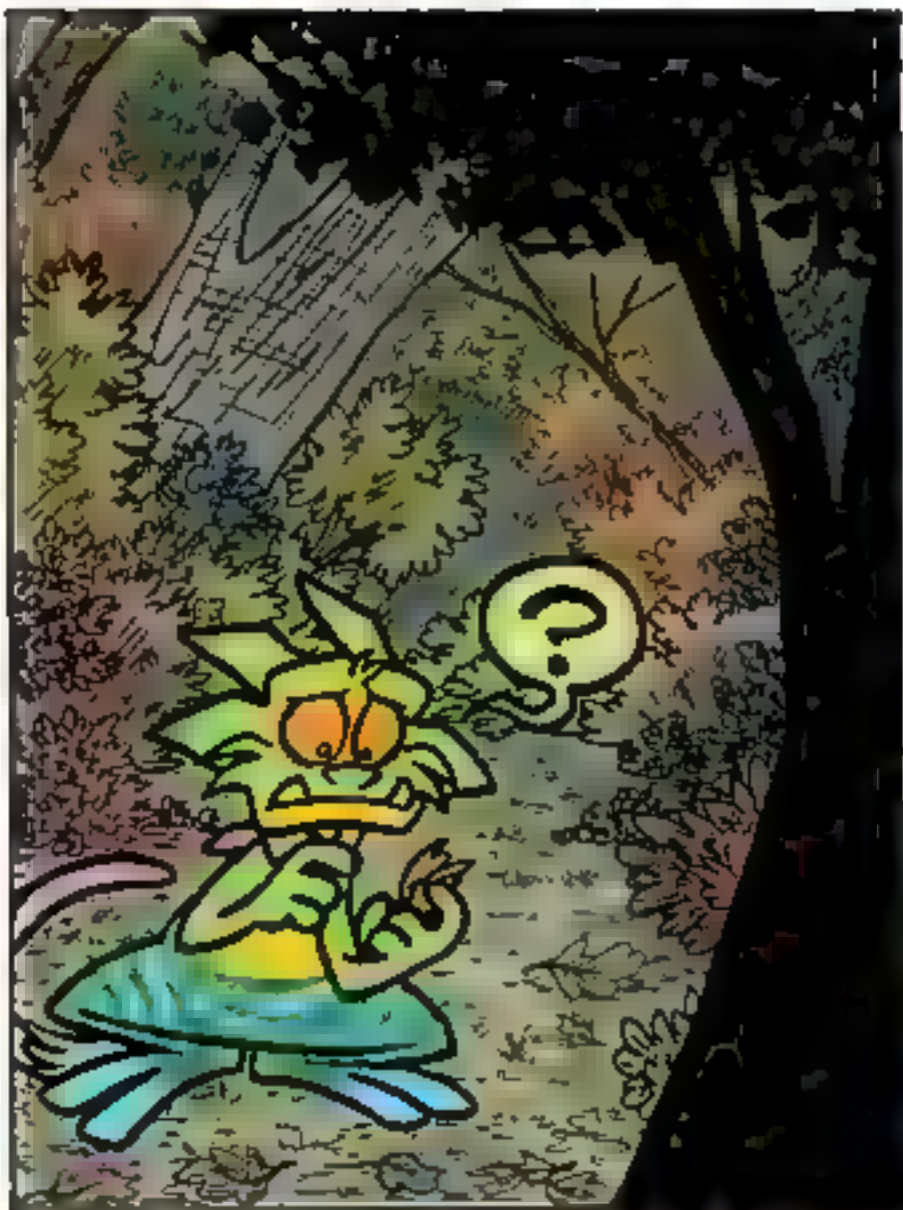


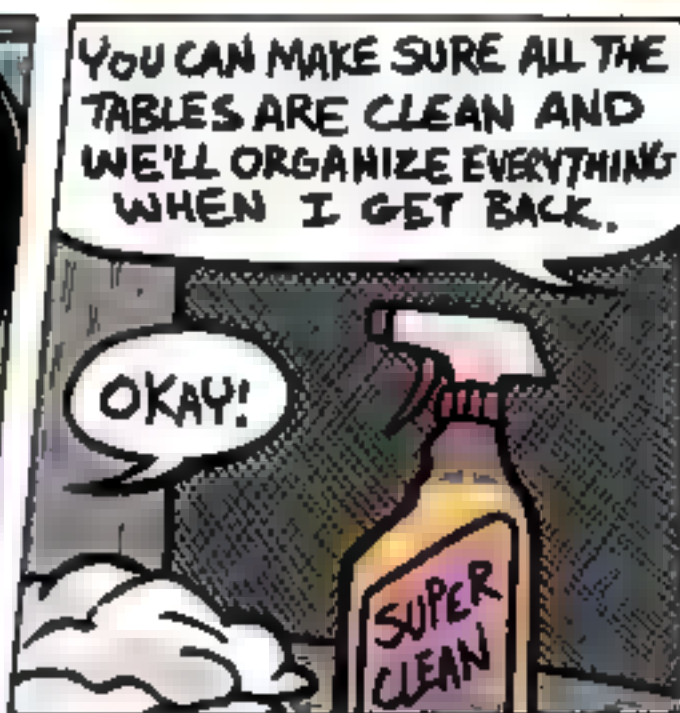
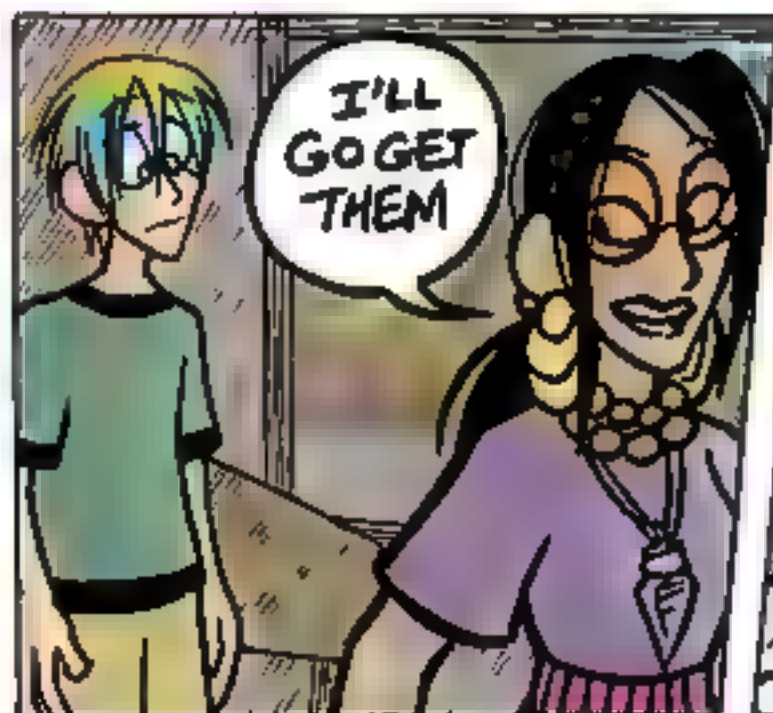
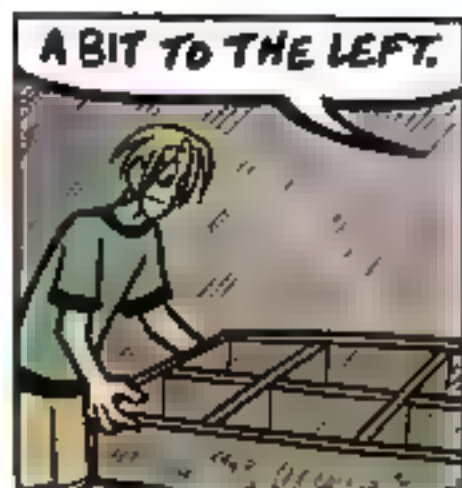
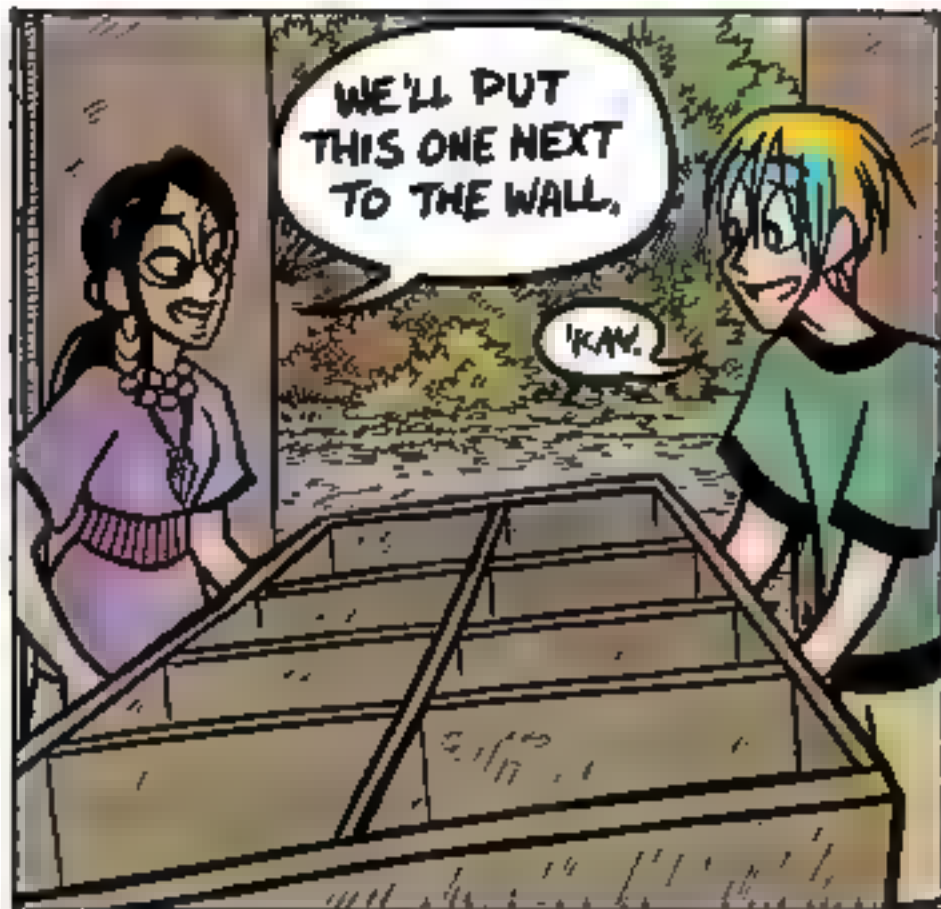


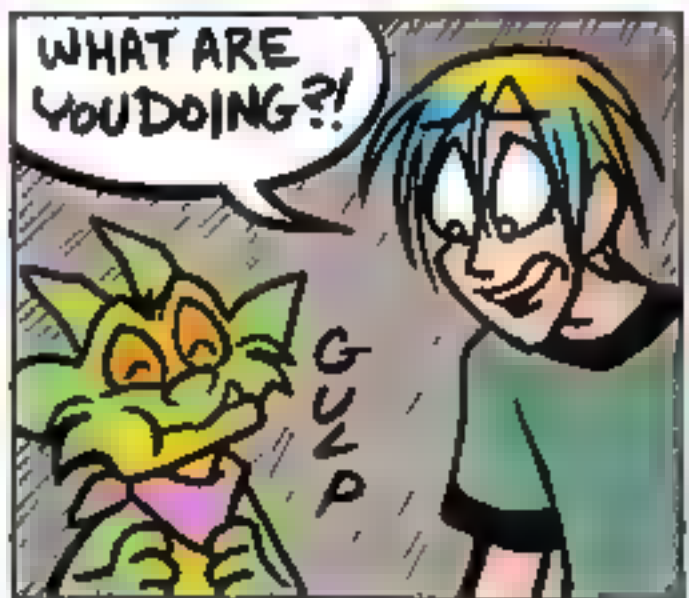
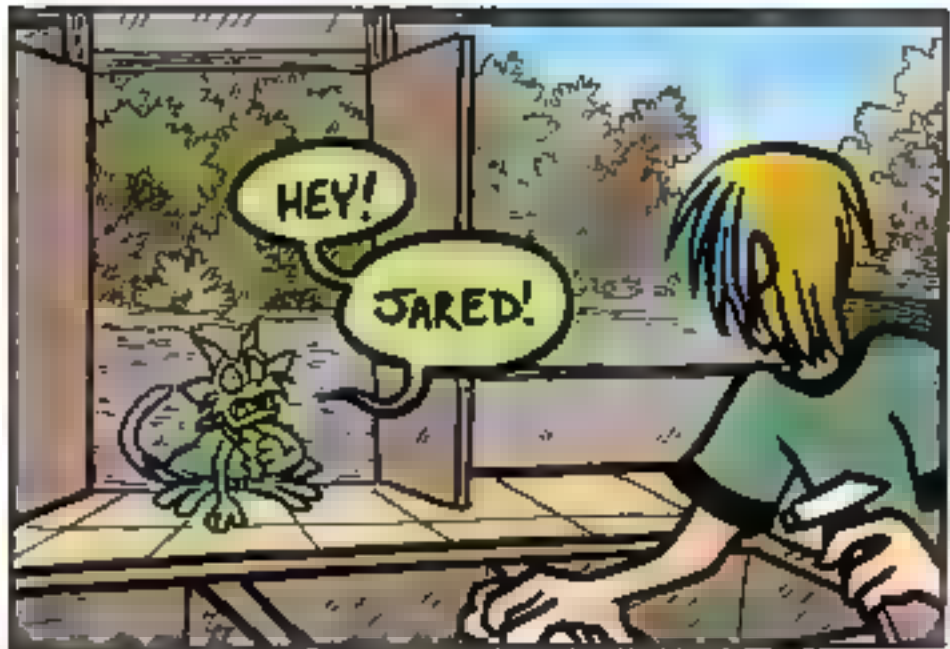


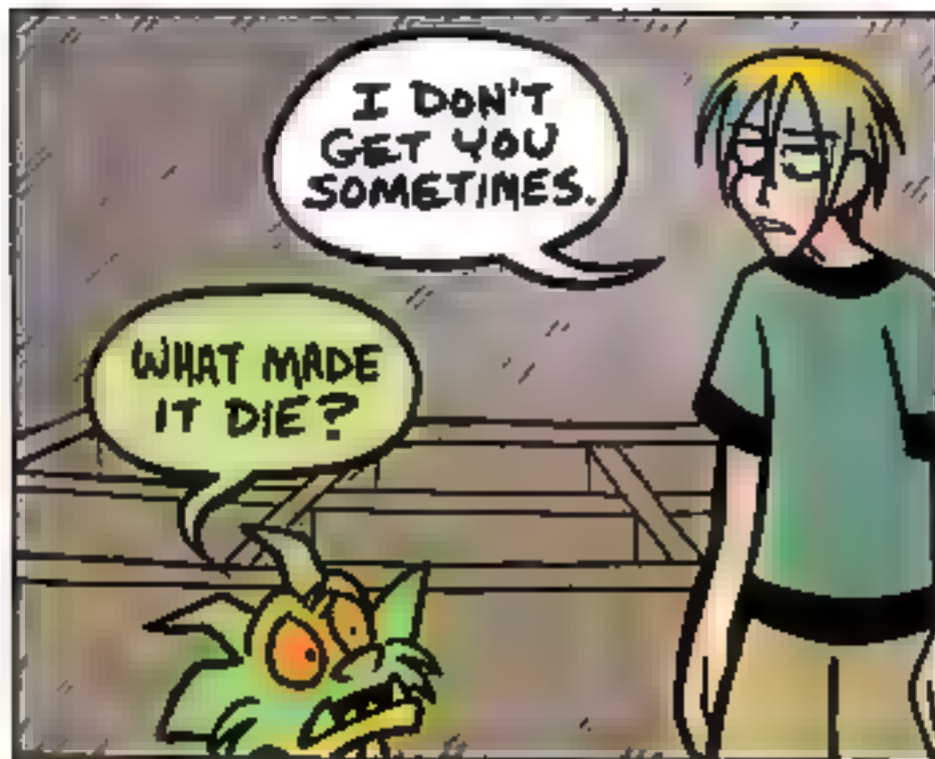












THE OLD ONES HAVE
COMPLETED THEIR
LIFE CYCLES...



...AND THE
YOUNG MOVE ON
TO WARMER CLIMATES.

I THINK IT GETS
TOO COLD FOR
THEM HERE IN
THE WINTER.



LATER...

EXOTIC
FOOD

I THINK
THAT'S GOOD
ENOUGH FOR
TODAY.

CUSTOMERS
WILL BE HERE
TOMORROW, SO
STUDY THIS
PRICE LIST.

HARPER!

I SAW
MAGGOT AND
SHE—

OH—I DIDN'T KNOW
THE STORE WAS OPEN
TODAY—

WHAT—? THAT'S NOT A
CUSTOMER, THAT'S
JUST JARED.

THAT?

HE'S
MAGGOT'S
FRIEND.

I'M A
"THAT"
NOW?

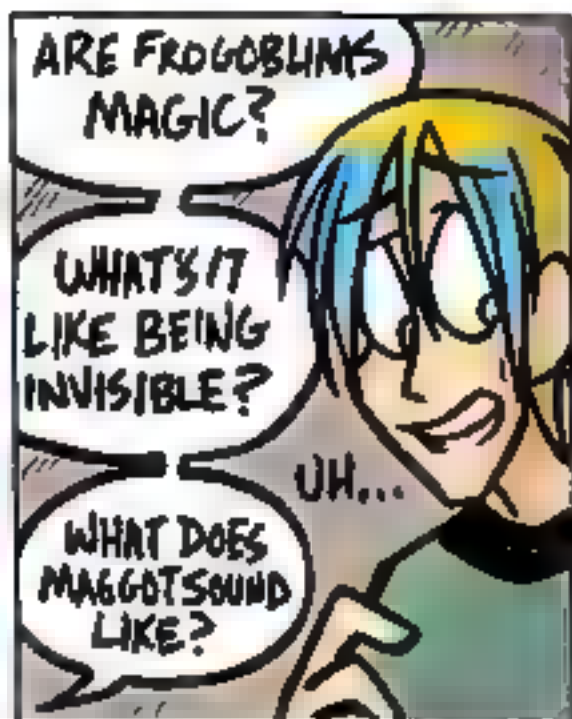
OH...



HEY!



ARE YOU THAT OTHER FROGOBLIM FROM THAT ONE TIME?

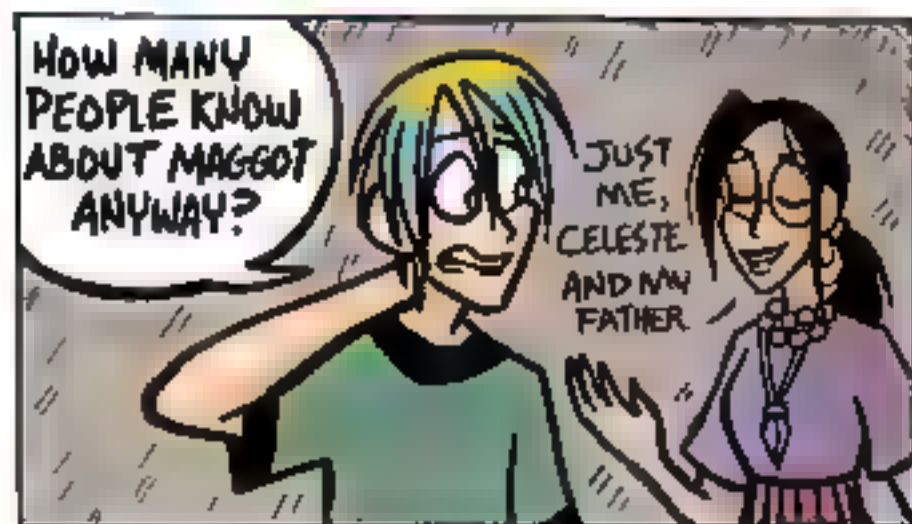


ARE FROGOBLIMS MAGIC?

WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING INVISIBLE?

WHAT DOES MAGGOT SOUND LIKE?

UH...

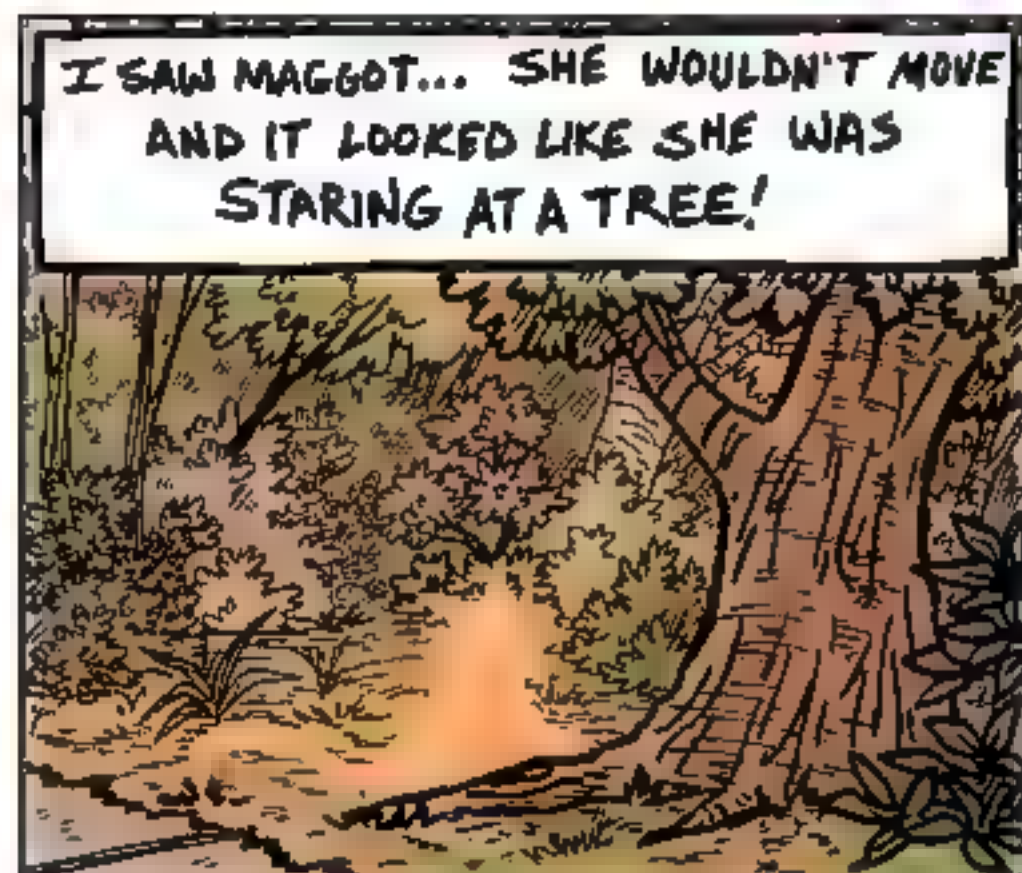


HOW MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT MAGGOT ANYWAY?

JUST ME, CELESTE AND MY FATHER



OH! I SAW MAGGOT EARLIER



I SAW MAGGOT... SHE WOULDN'T MOVE AND IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS STARING AT A TREE!



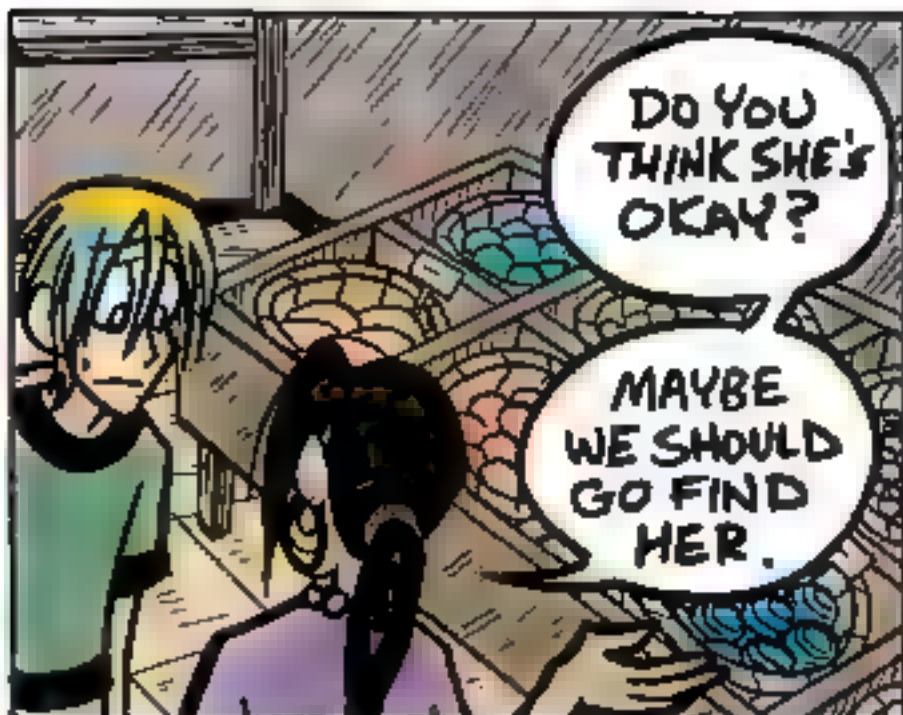
A TREE?

ACTUALLY, STARING AT
TREES SOUNDS LIKE
SOMETHING SHE'D DO.
ALRIGHT...



DO YOU
THINK SHE'S
OKAY?

MAYBE
WE SHOULD
GO FIND
HER.

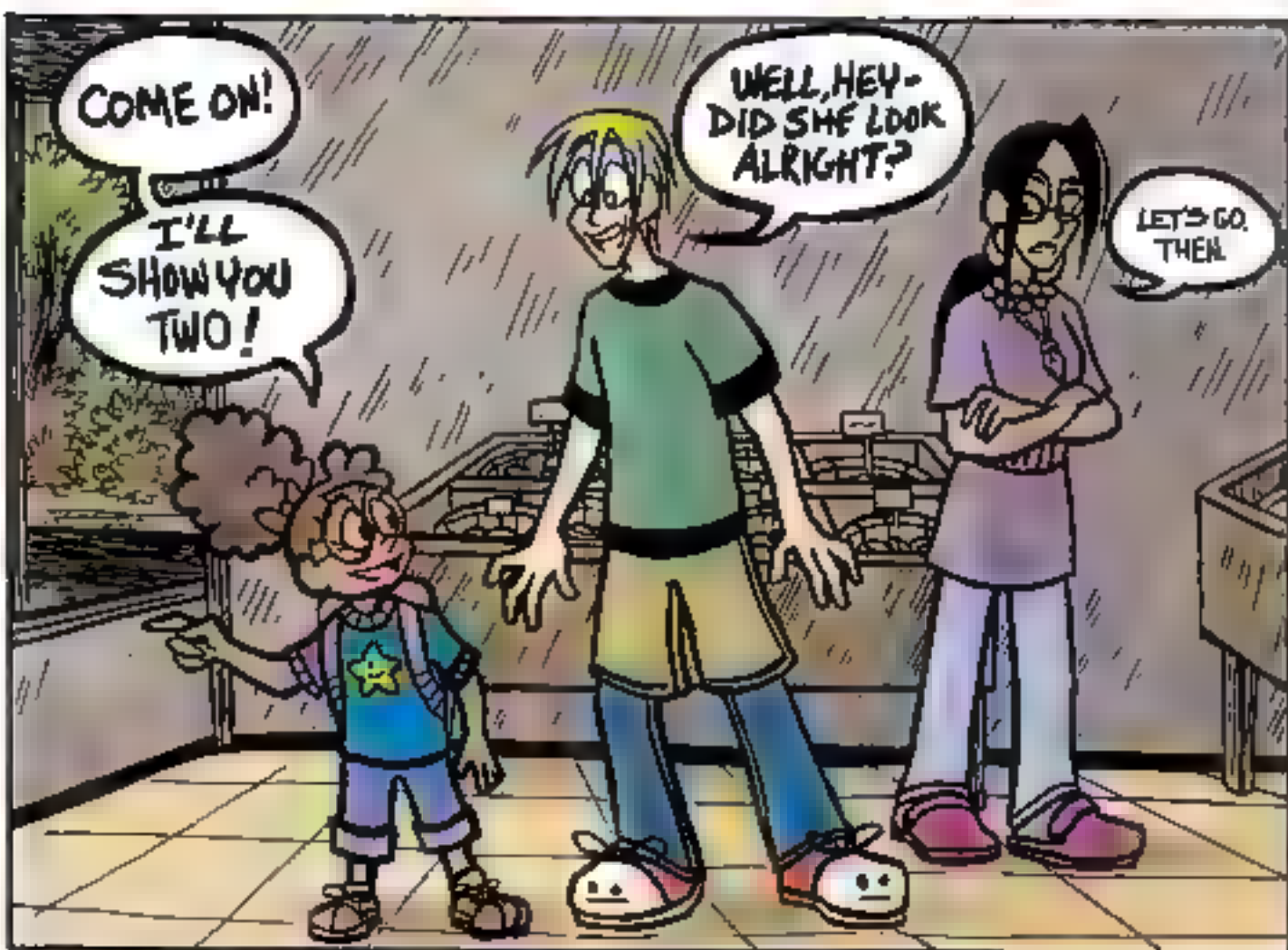


COME ON!

I'LL
SHOW YOU
TWO!

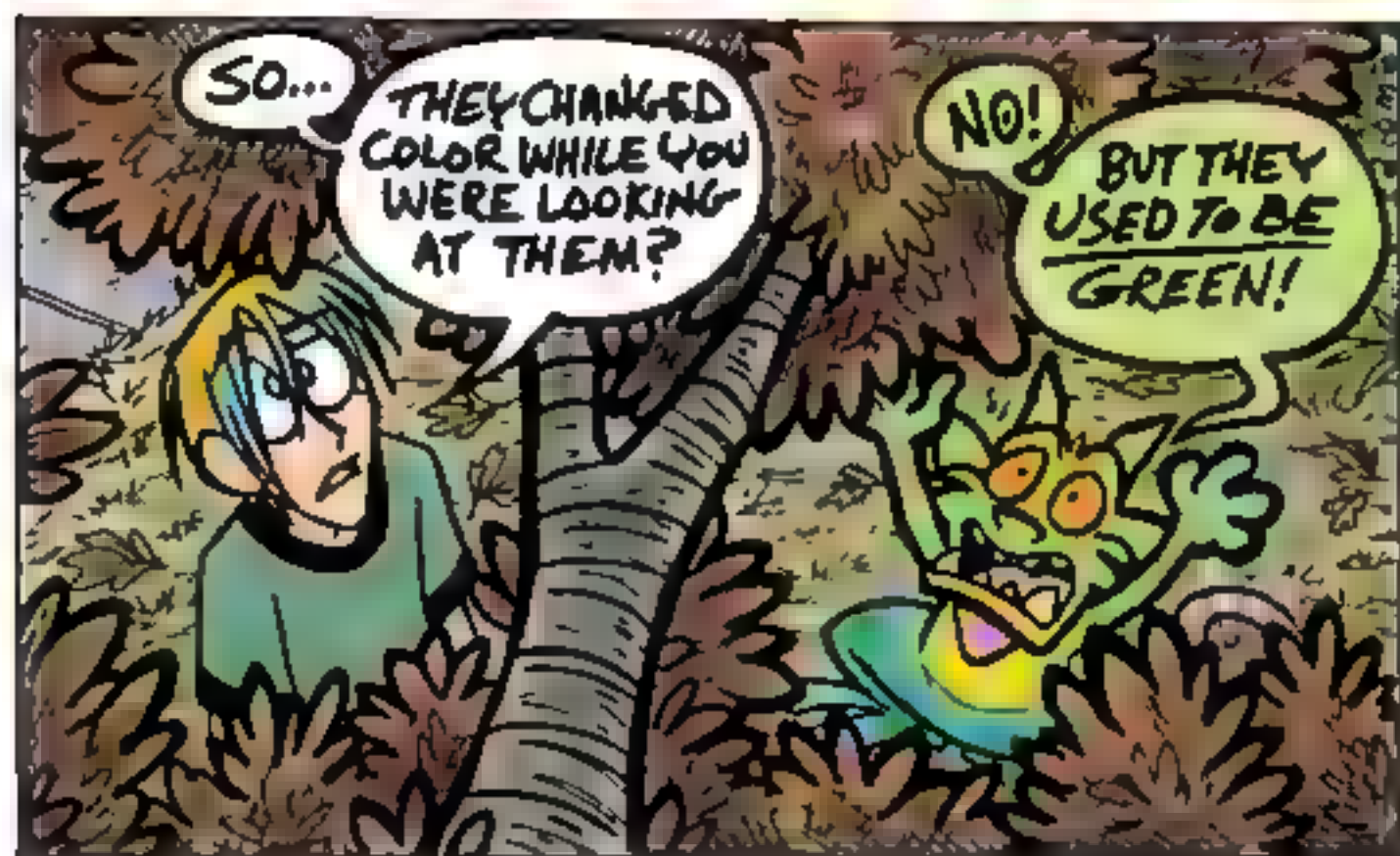
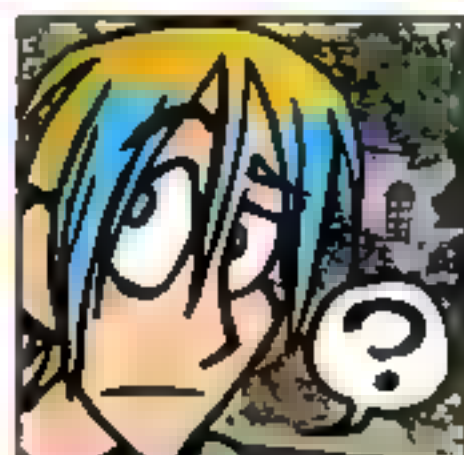
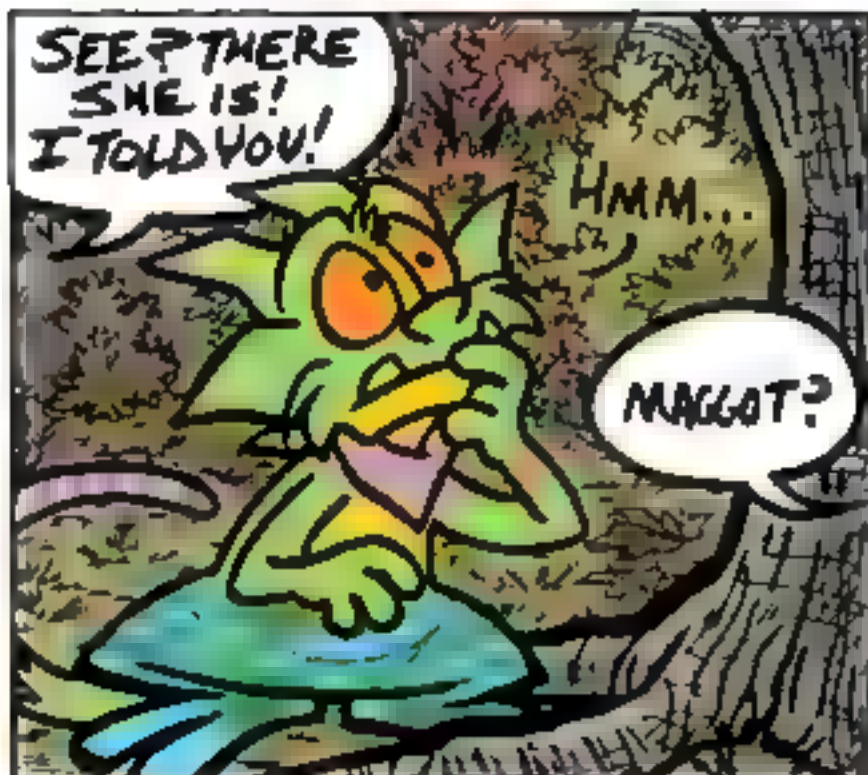
WELL, HEY -
DID SHE LOOK
ALRIGHT?

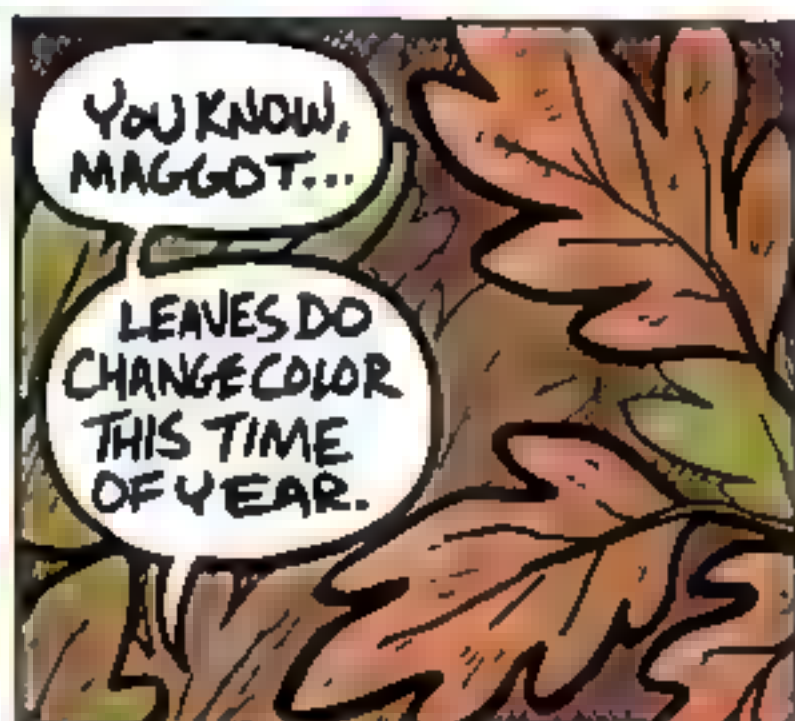
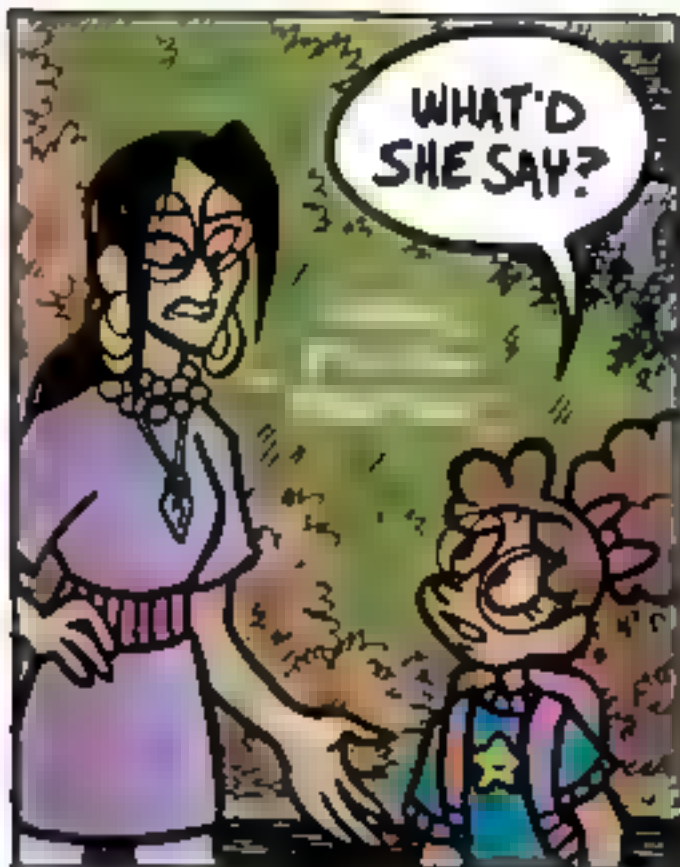
LET'S GO,
THEN.

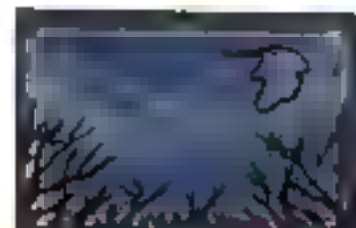
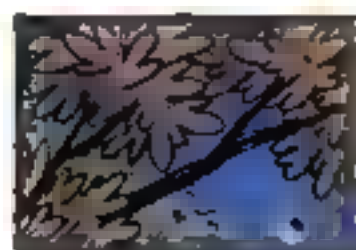


SHE'S
JUST UP
AHEAD!







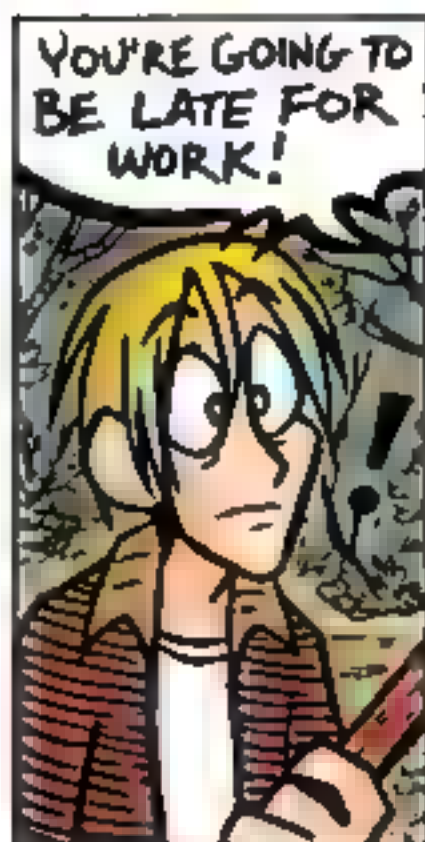


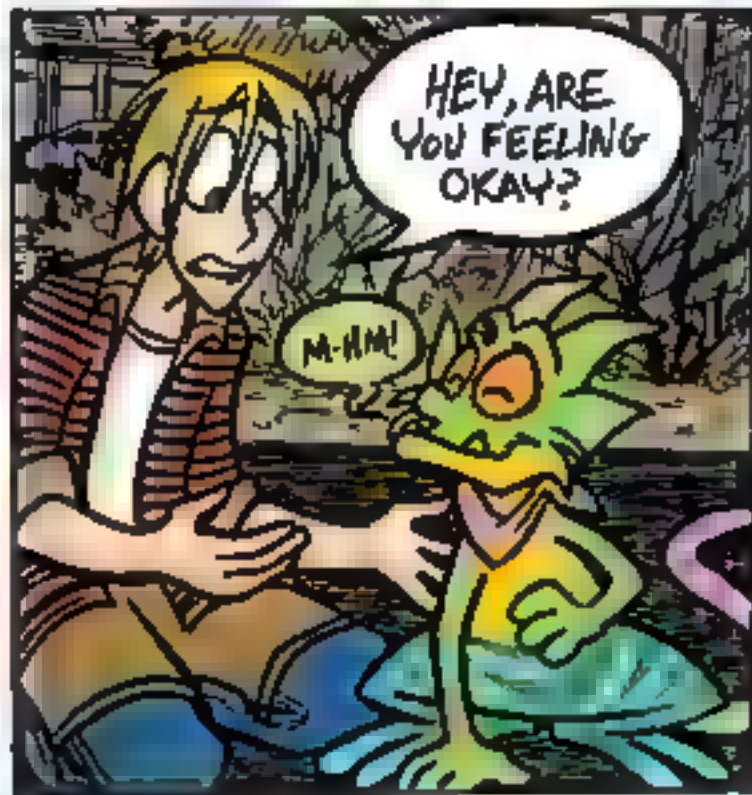
I'VE NEVER BEEN
TOO FOND OF THIS
TIME OF YEAR...

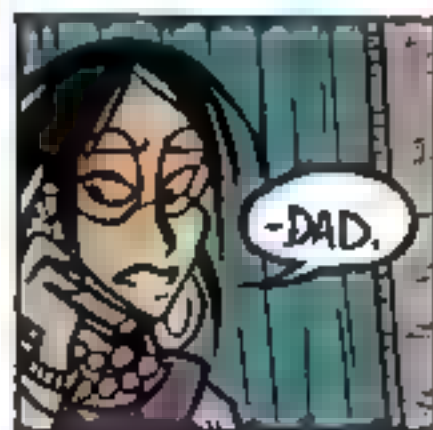
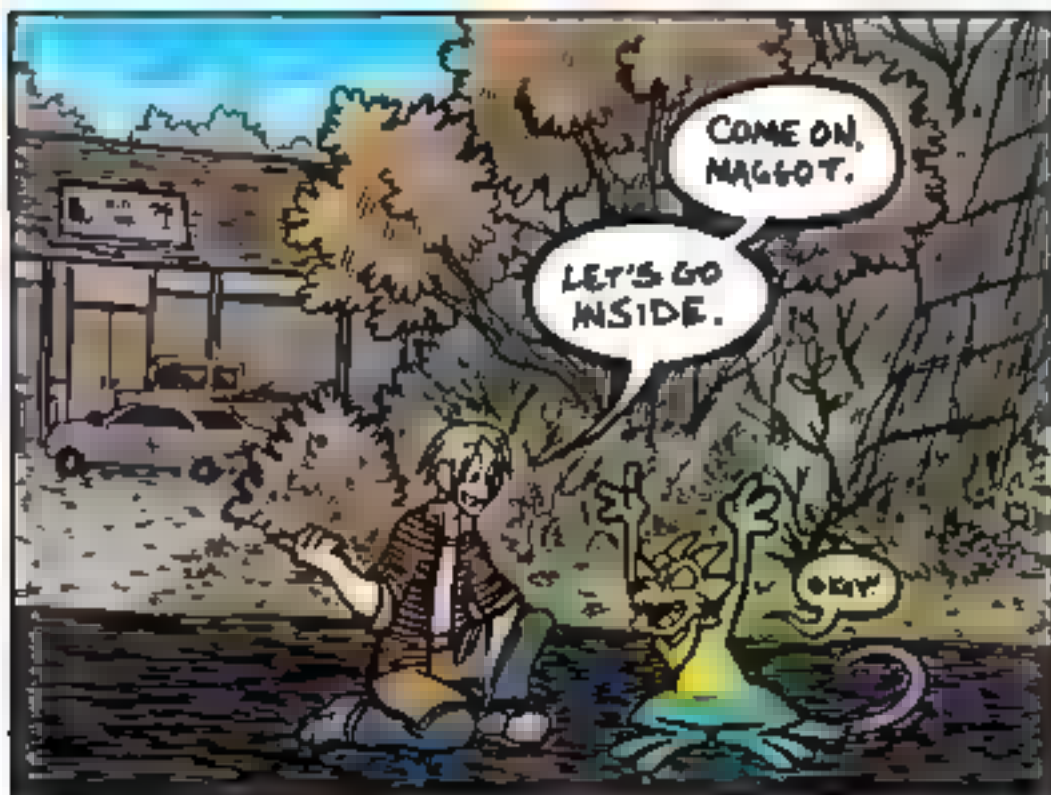
RAKING THE LEAVES
ALWAYS SEEMED LIKE
A FUTILE EFFORT.

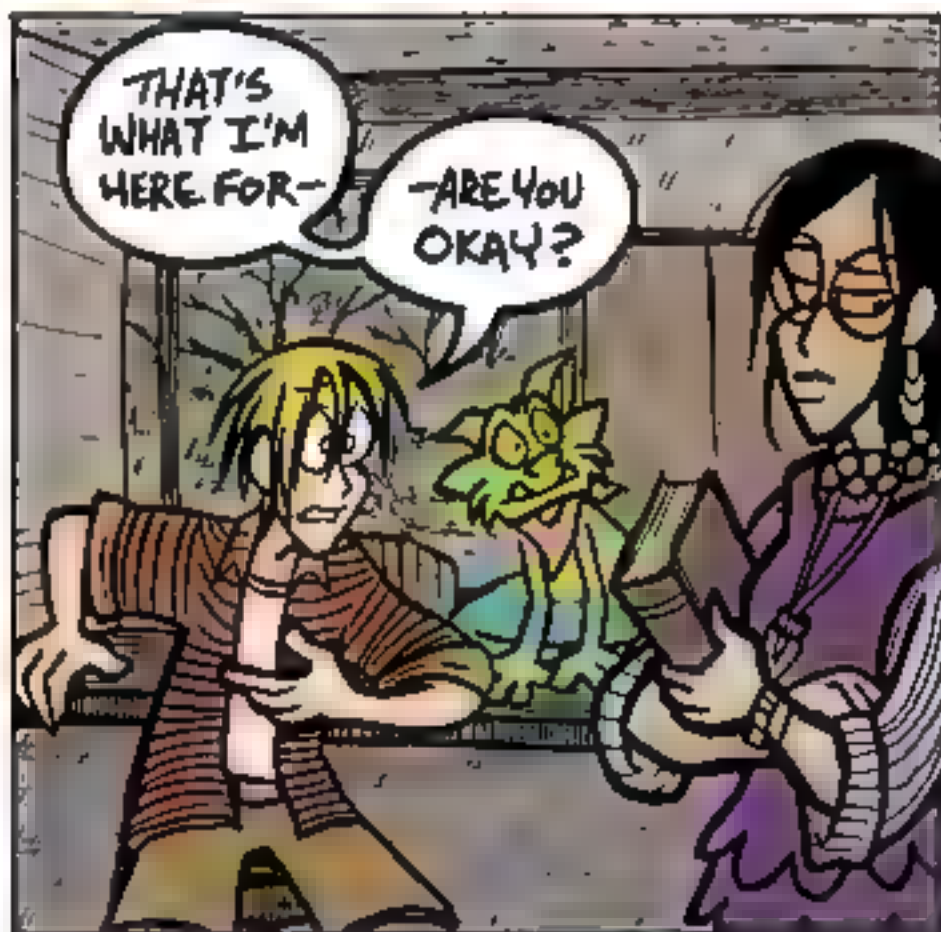
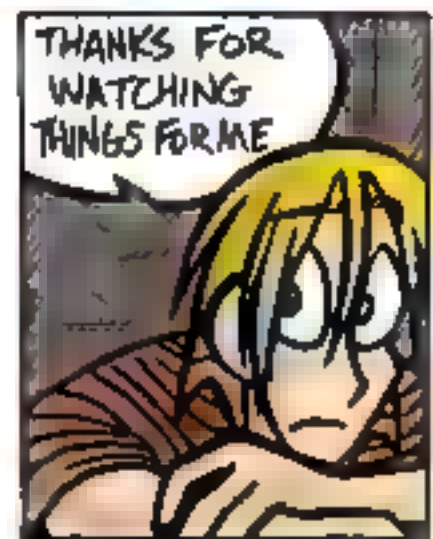
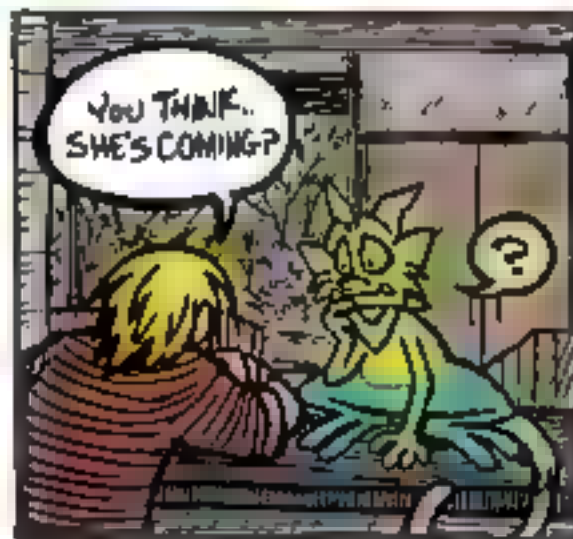
THIS YEAR MORE
THAN PREVIOUS
YEARS.

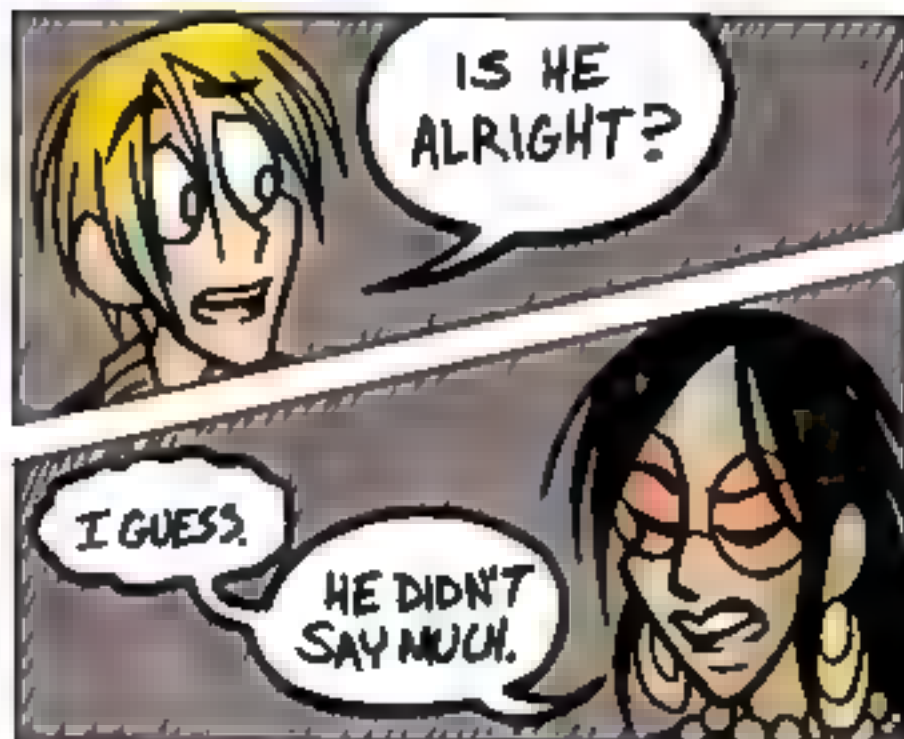


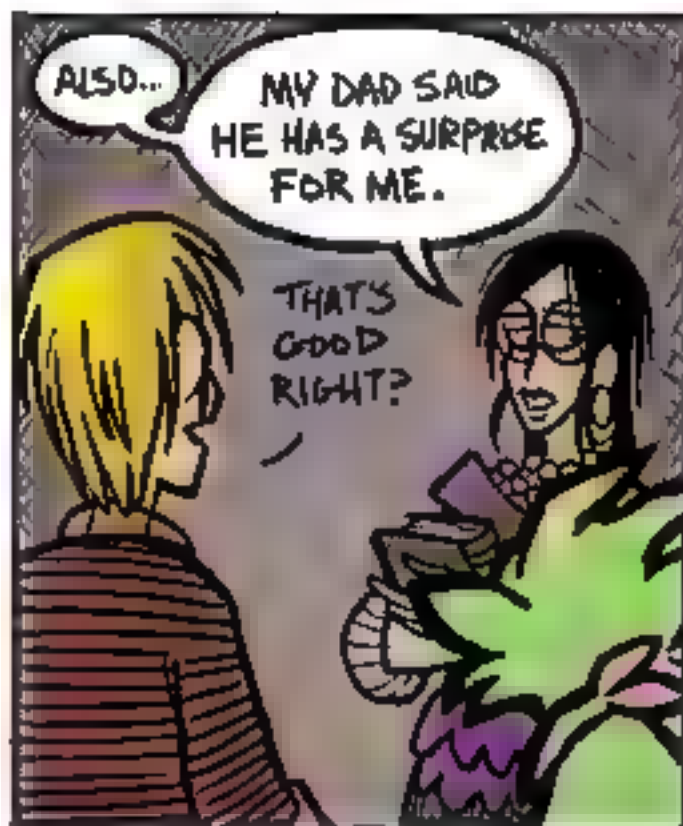


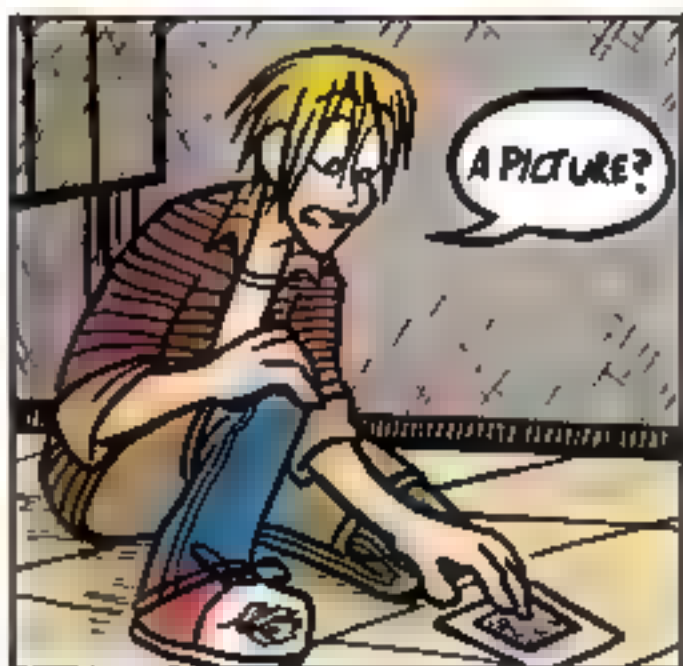
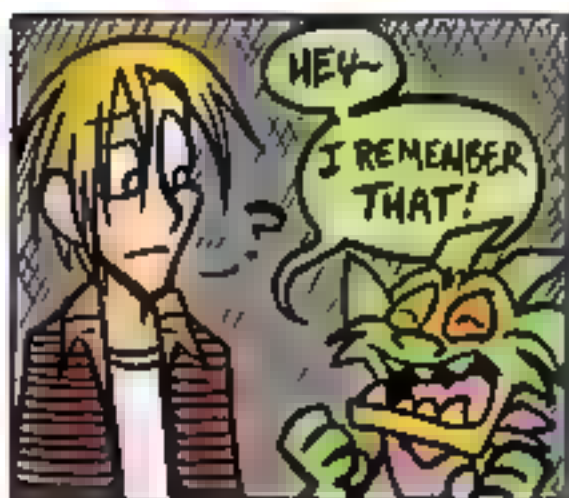
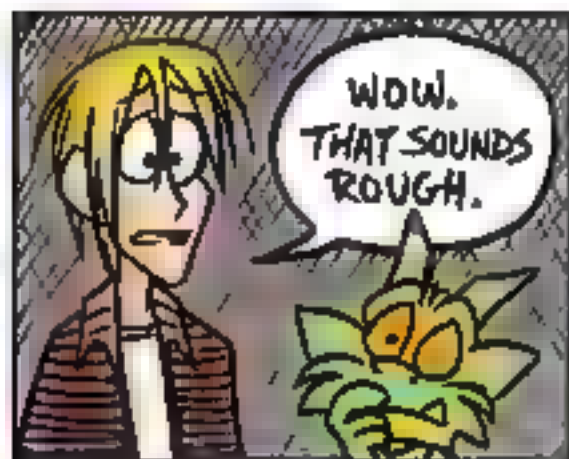


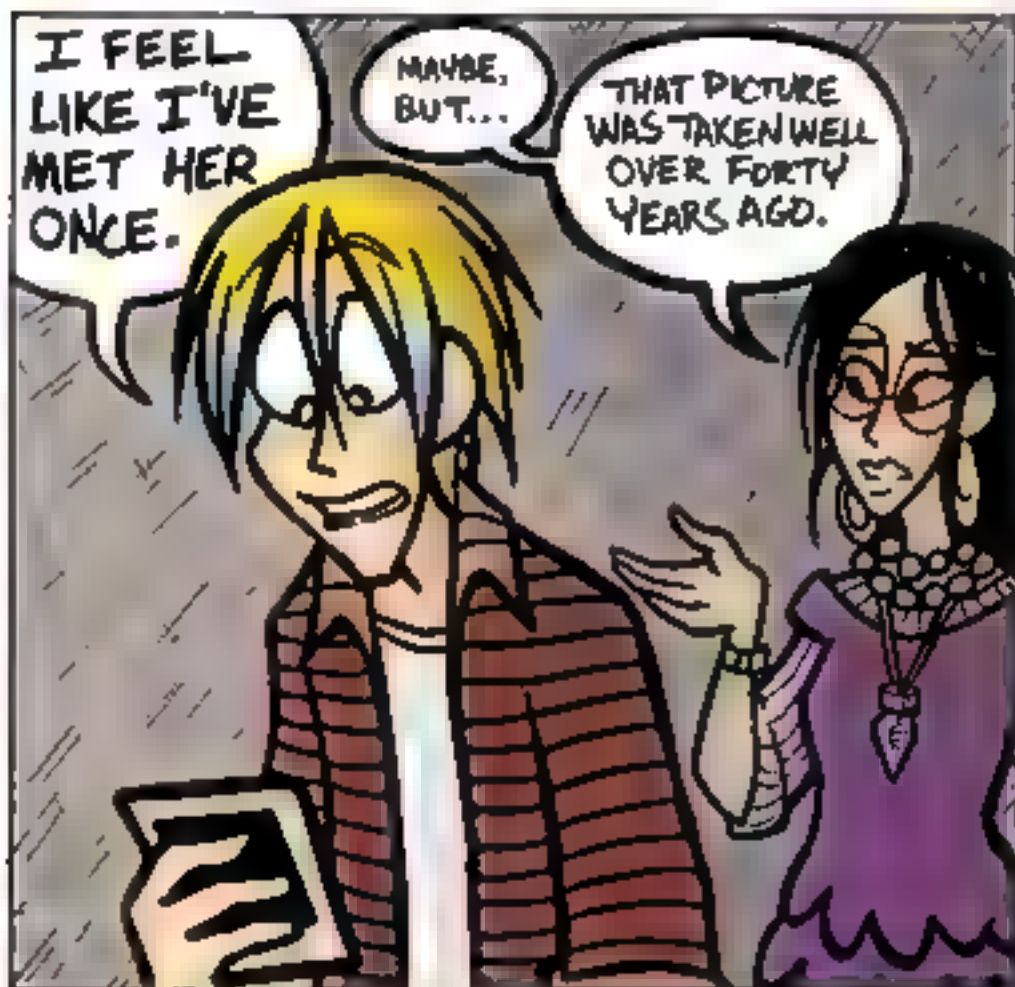


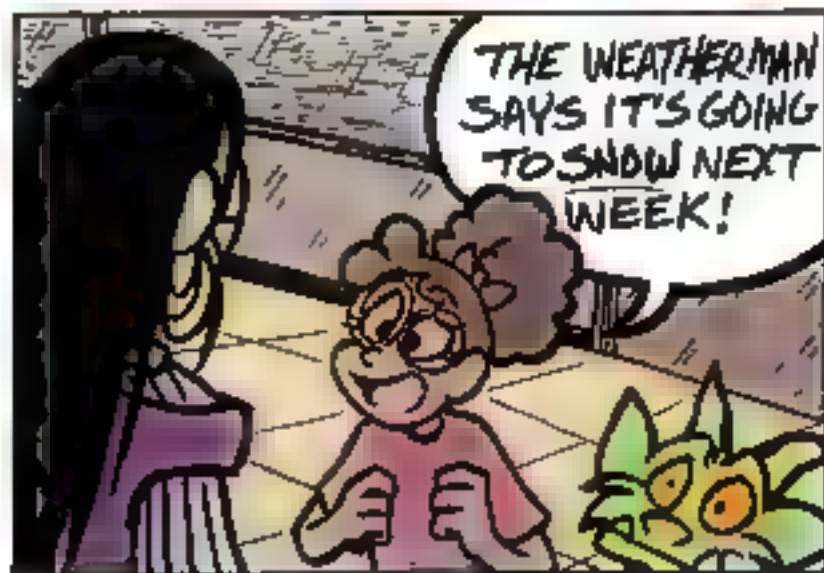
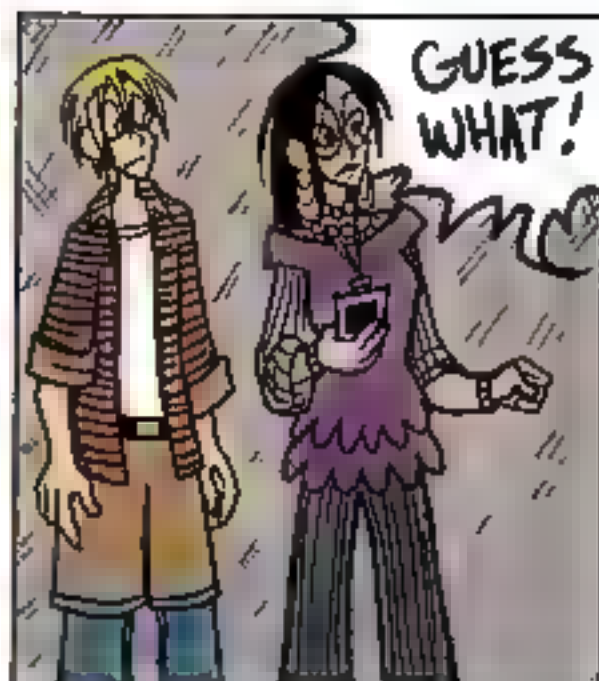
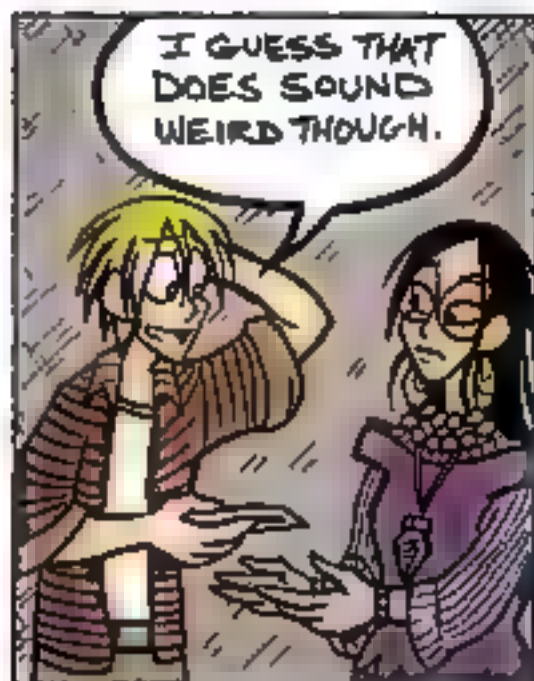


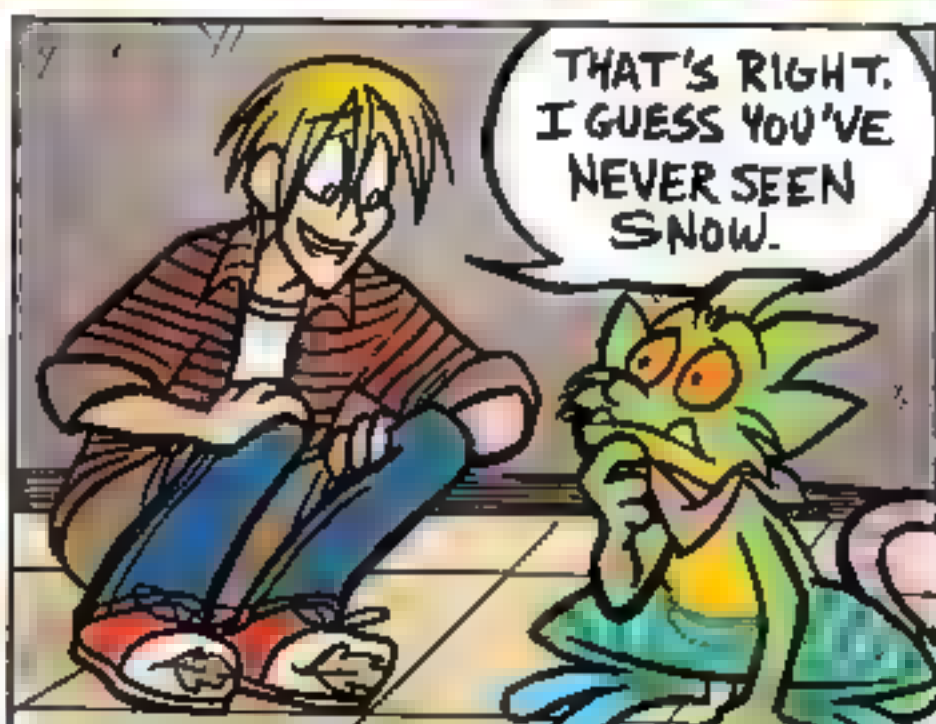


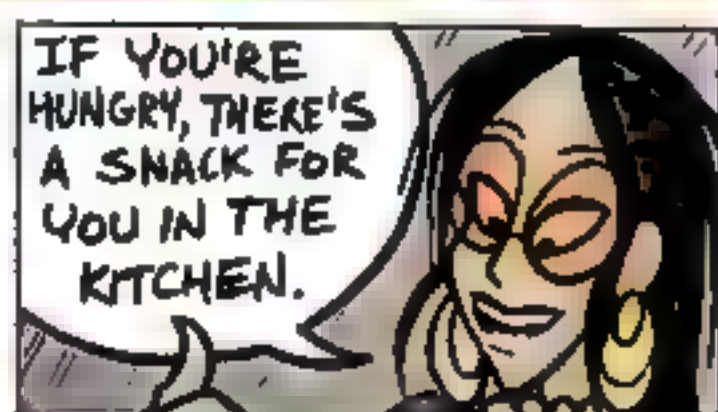
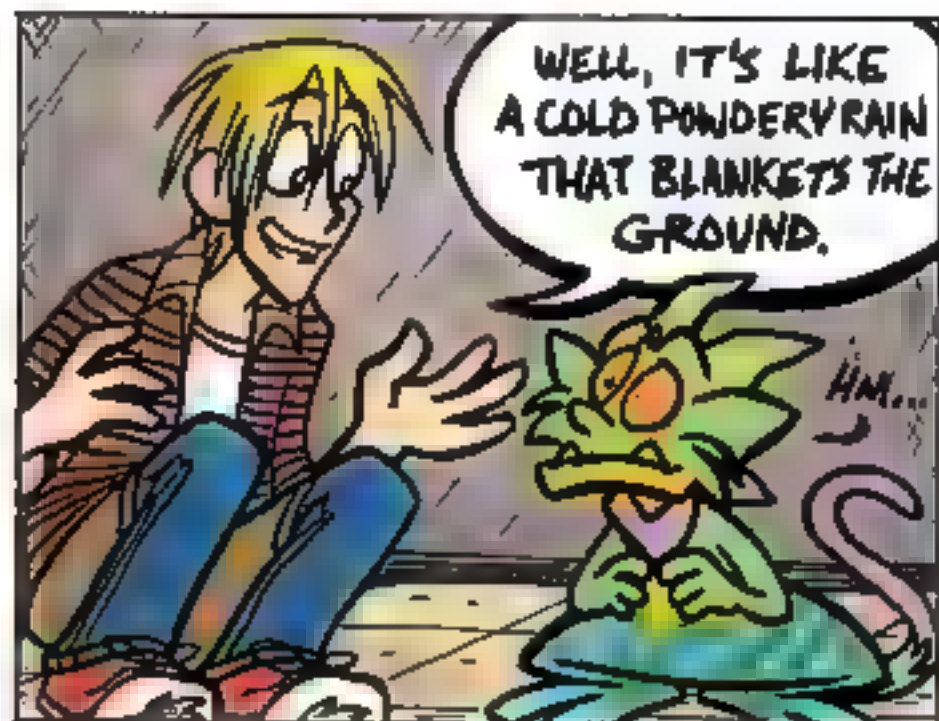


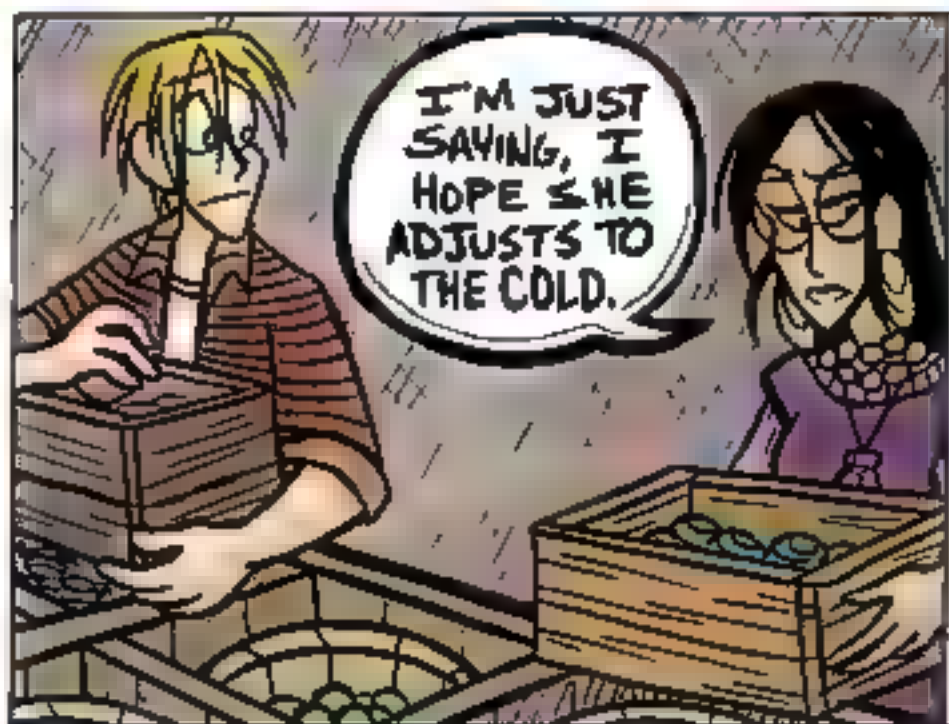


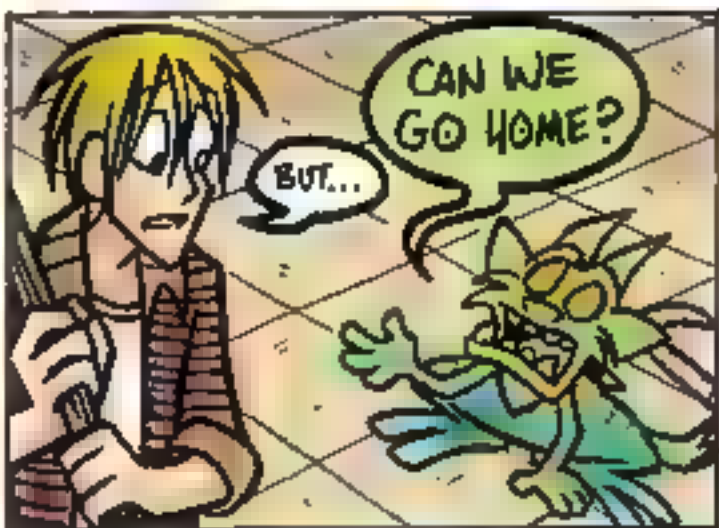
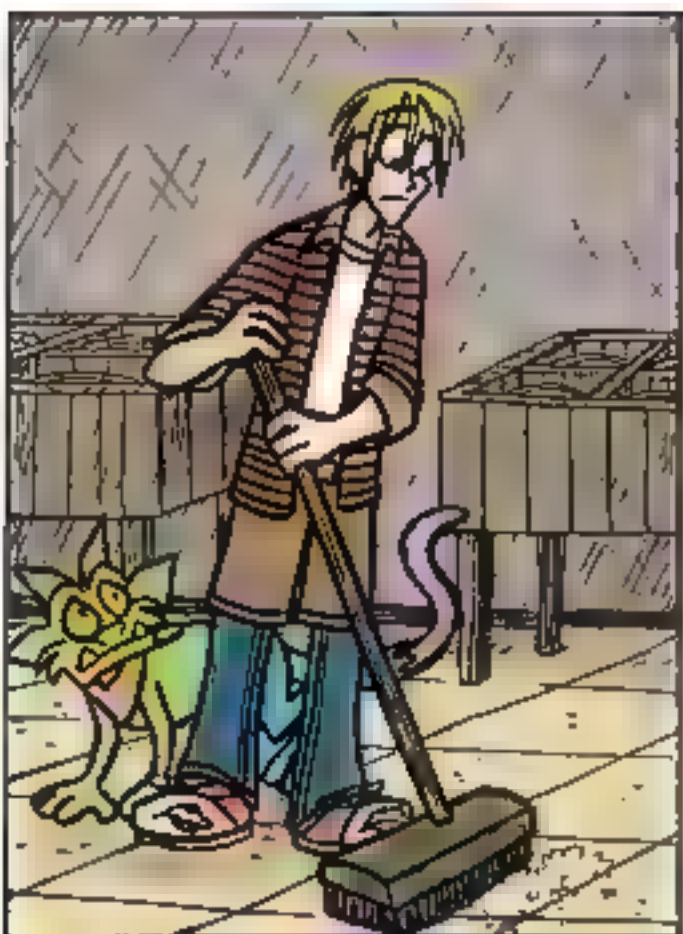
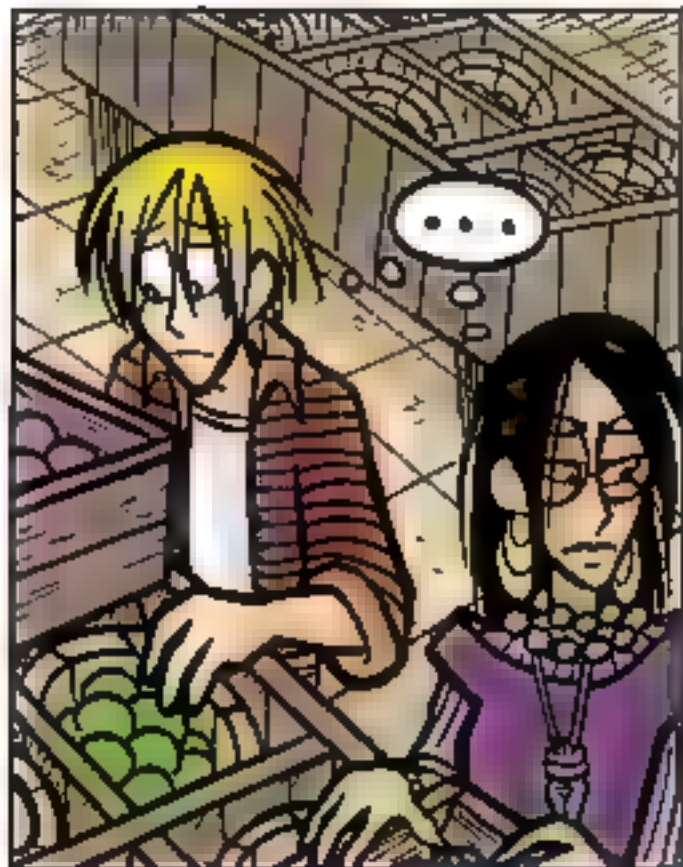


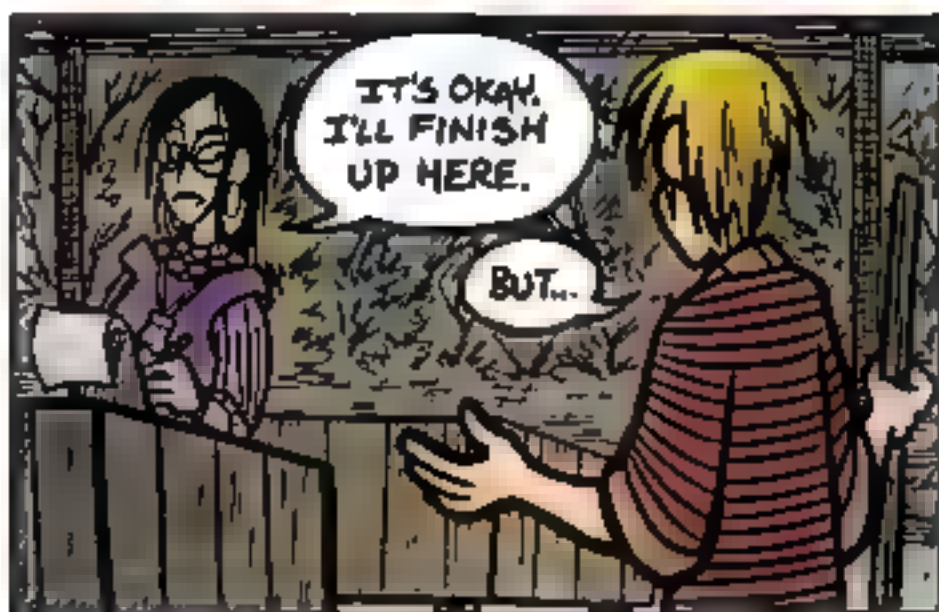
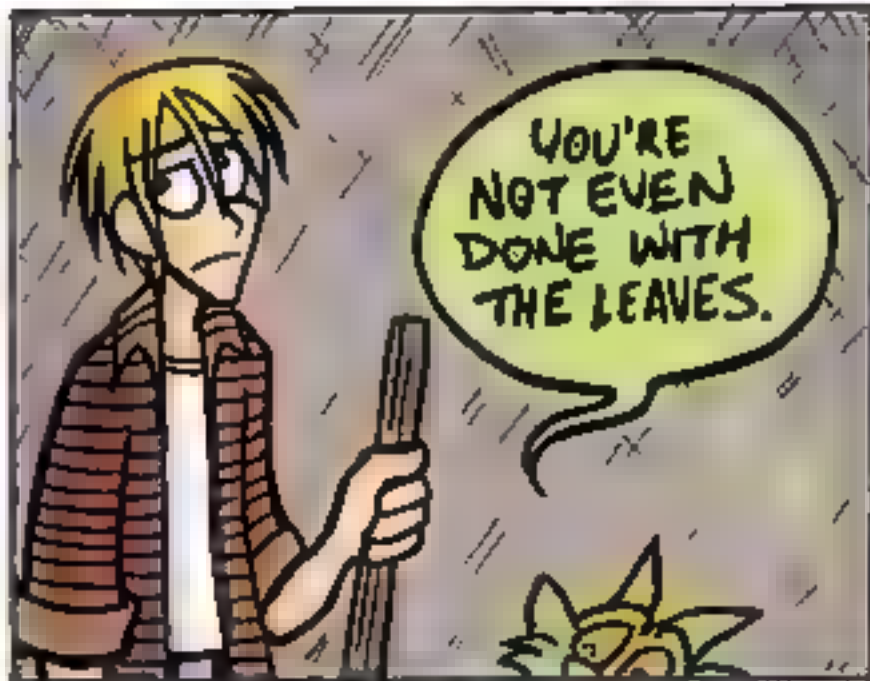


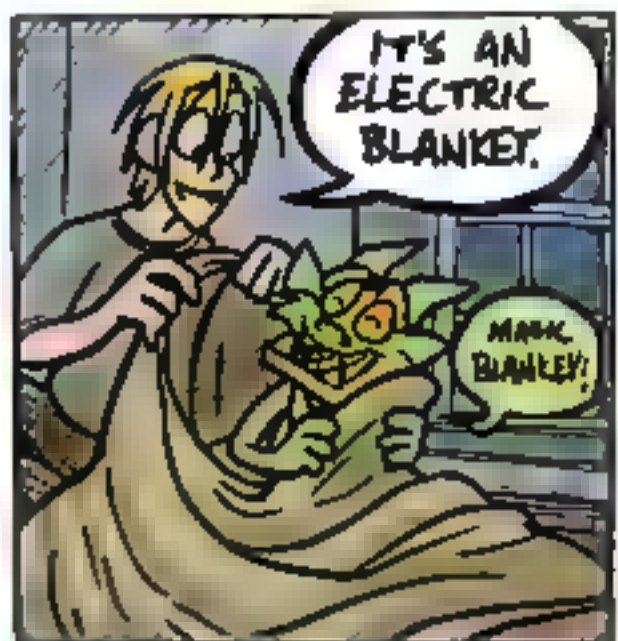
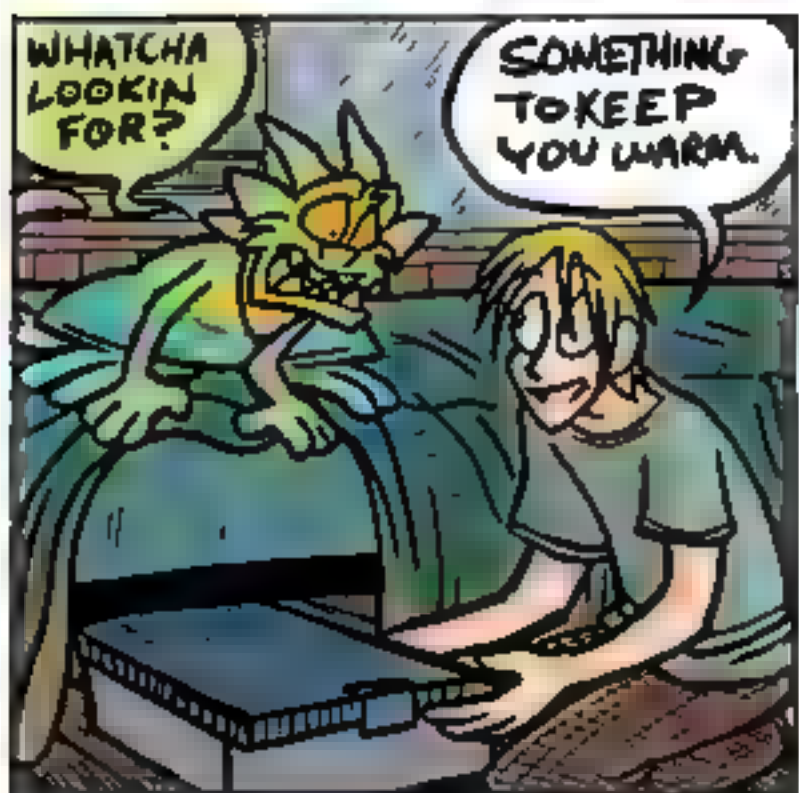
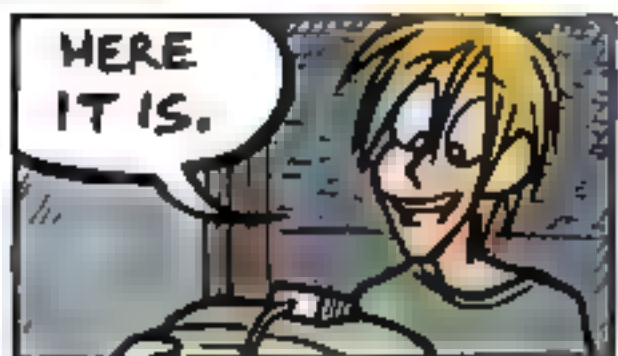
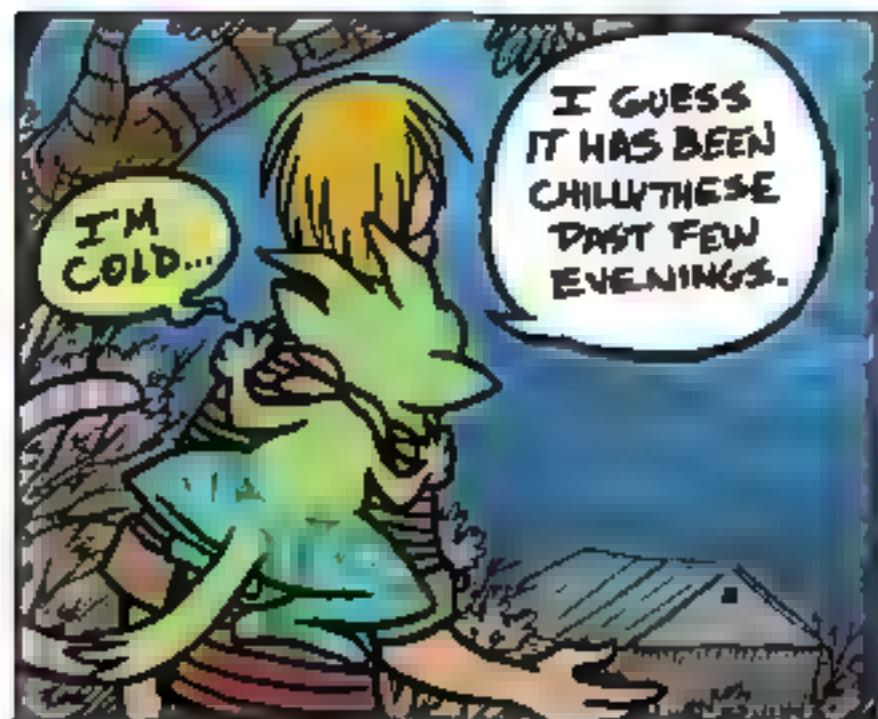


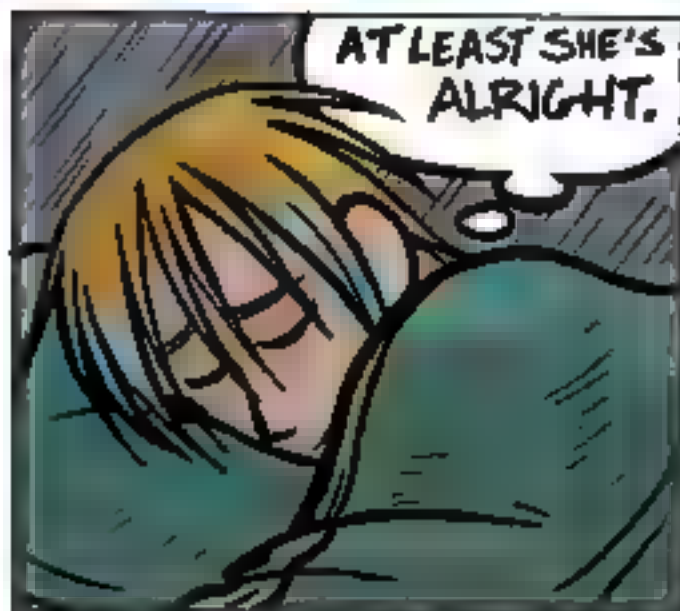
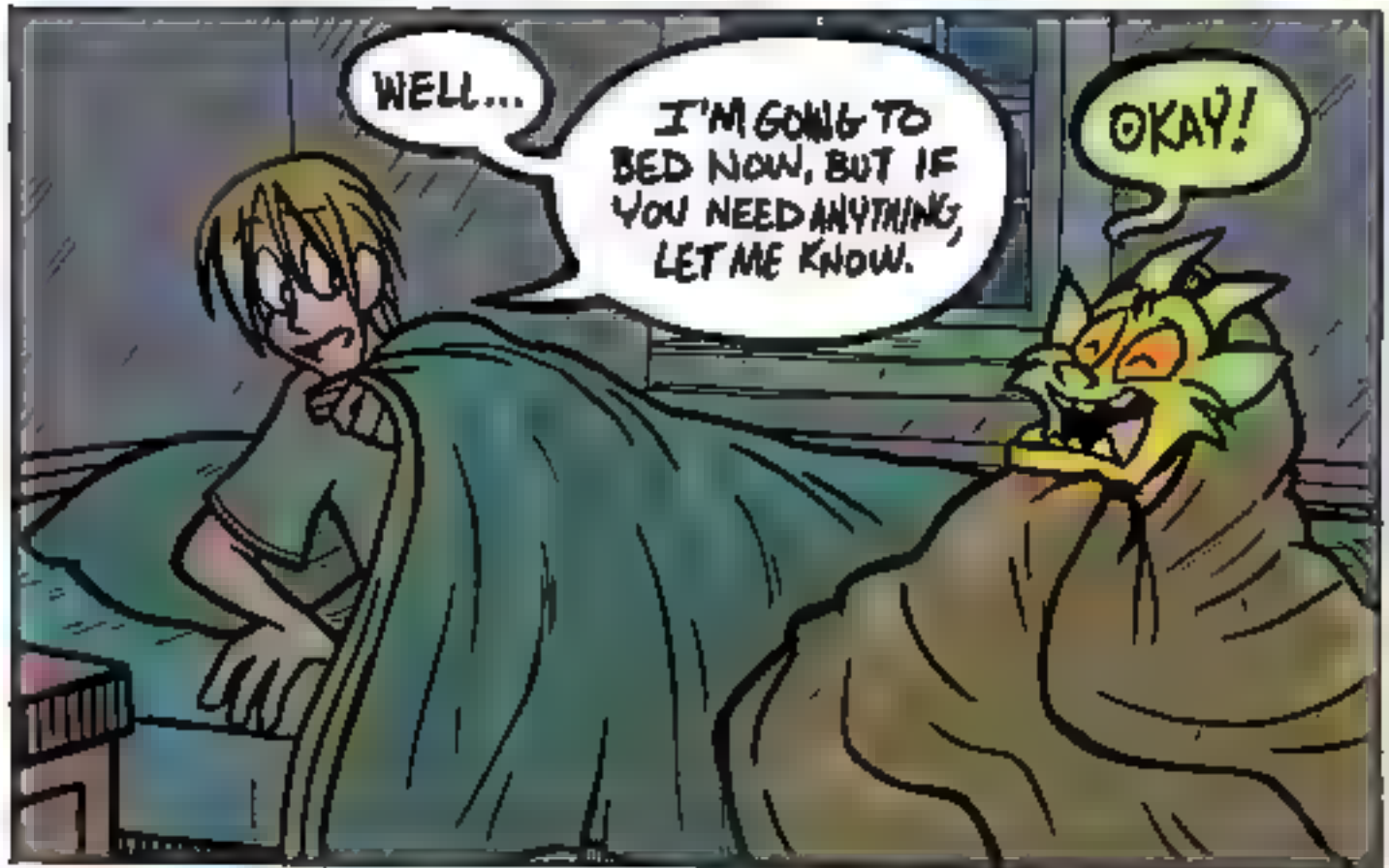
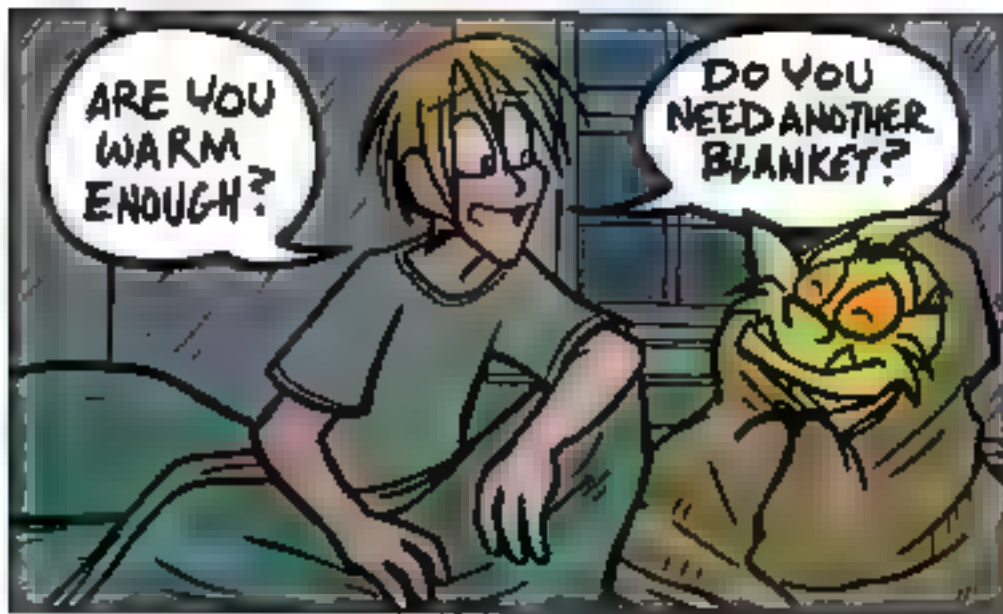


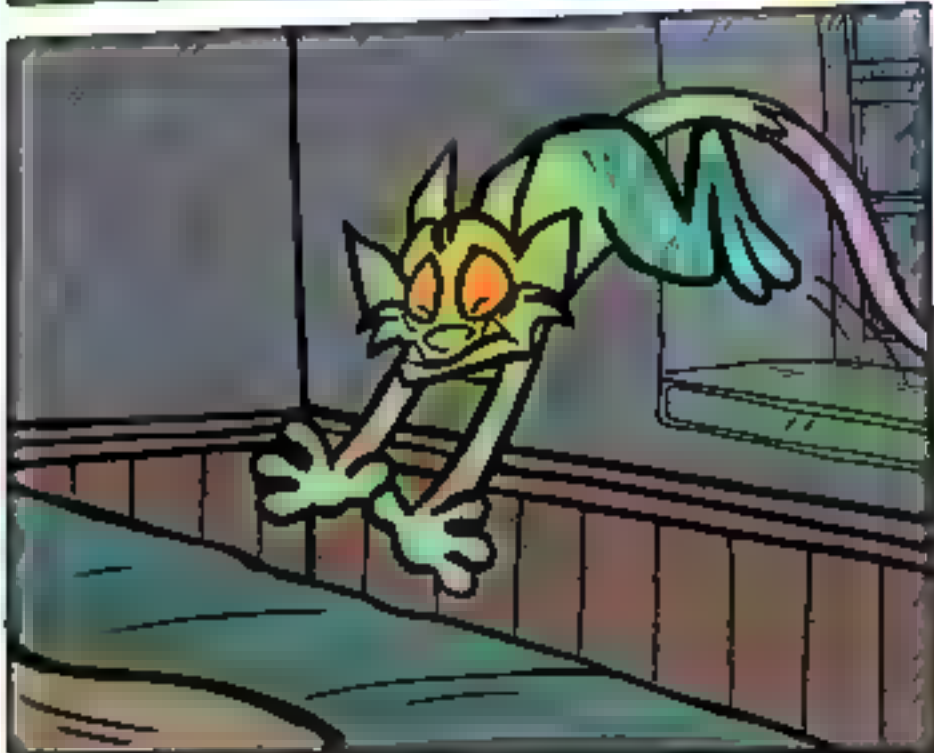
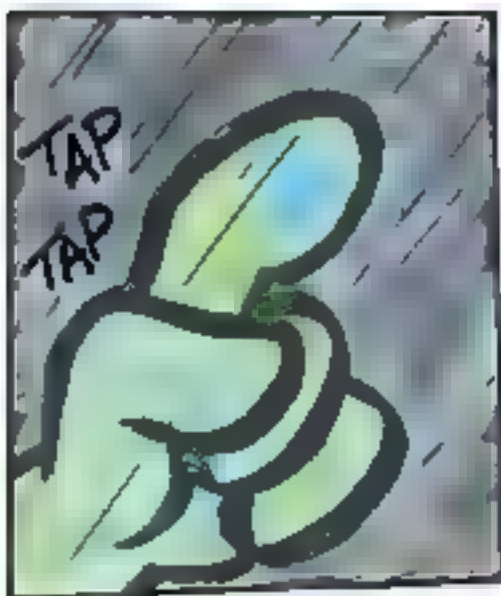
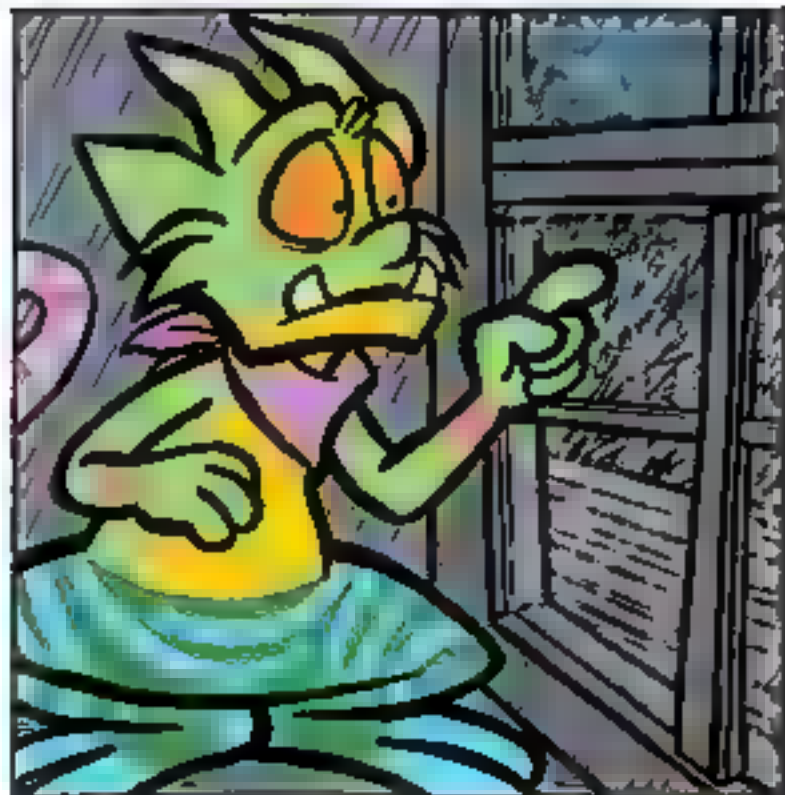


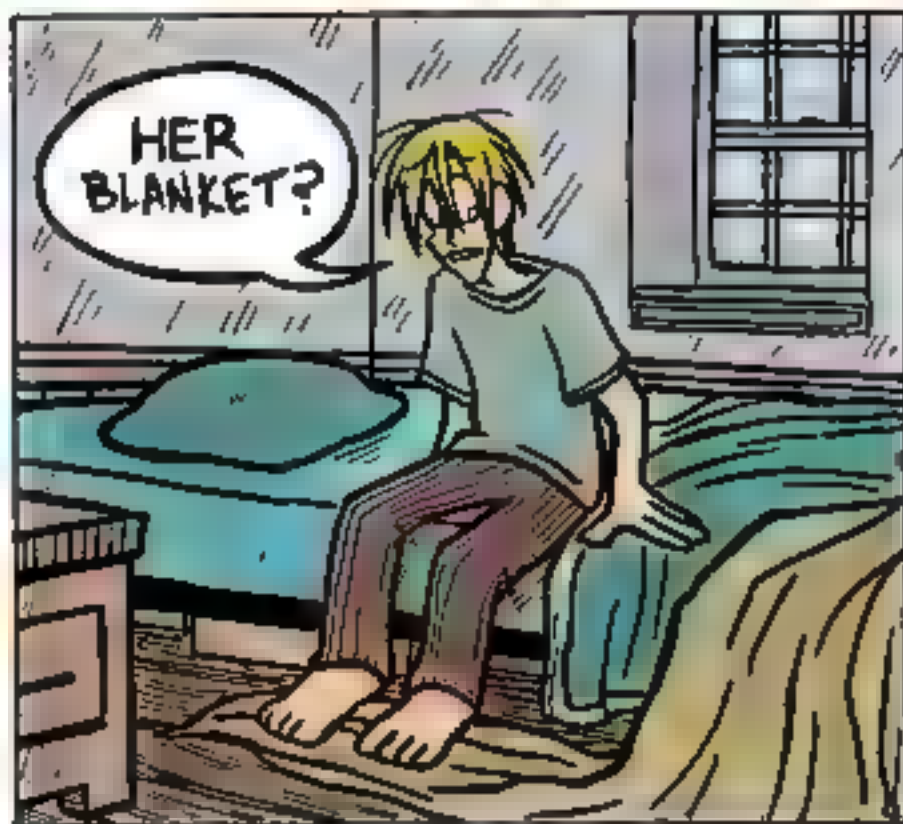
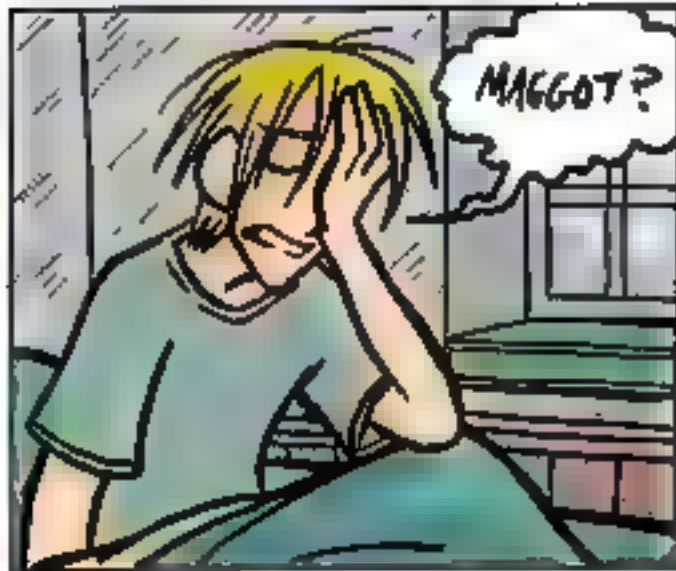


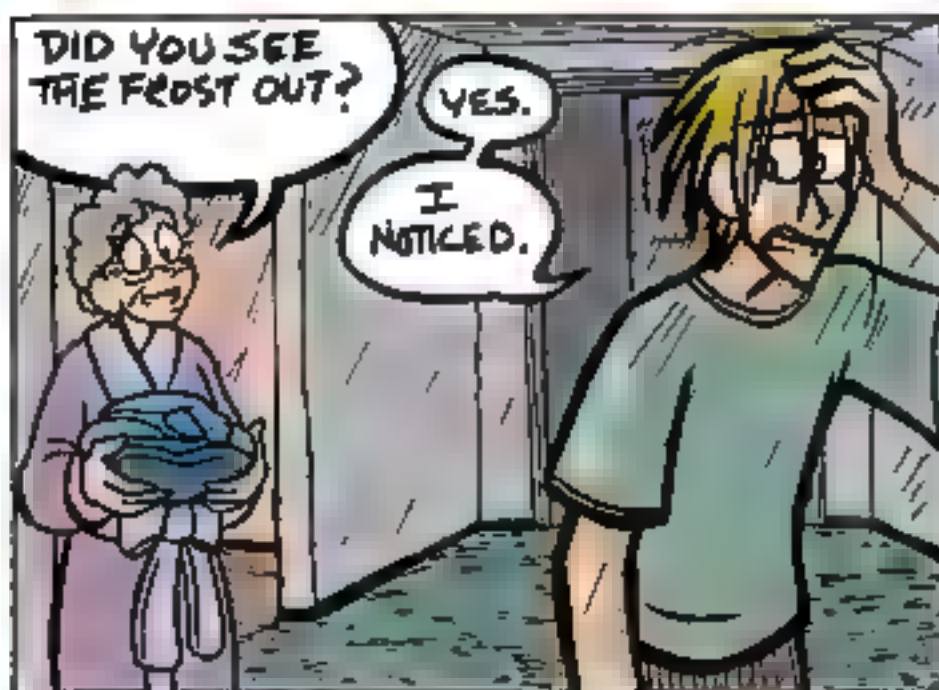
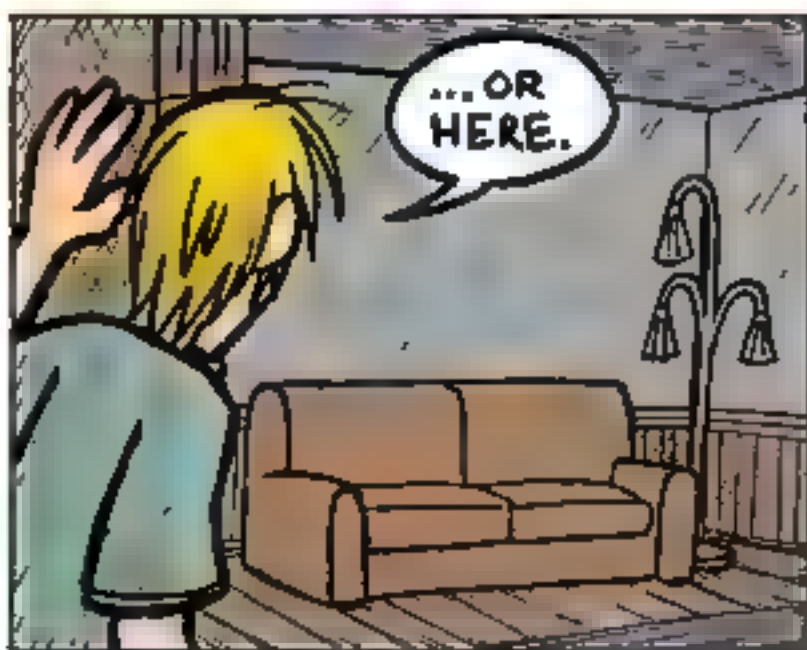
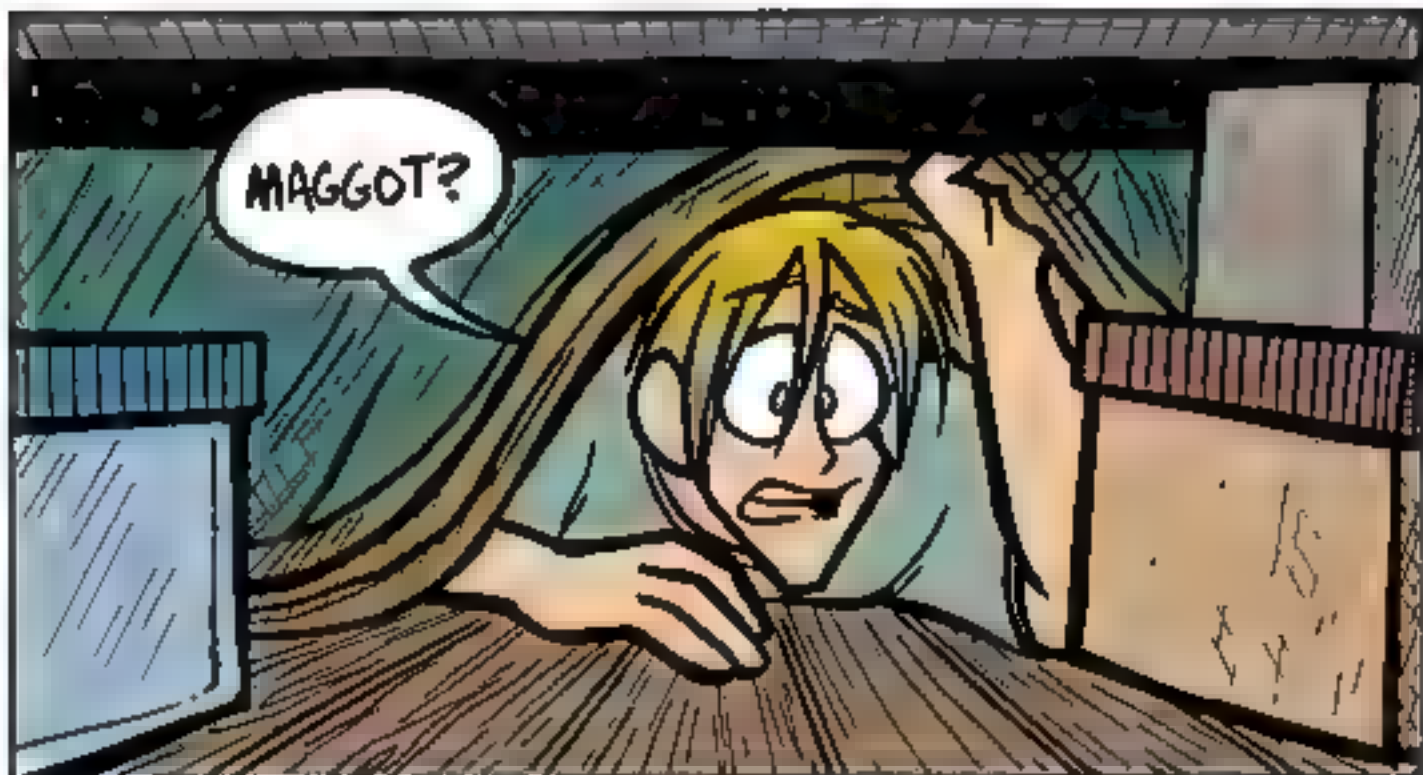


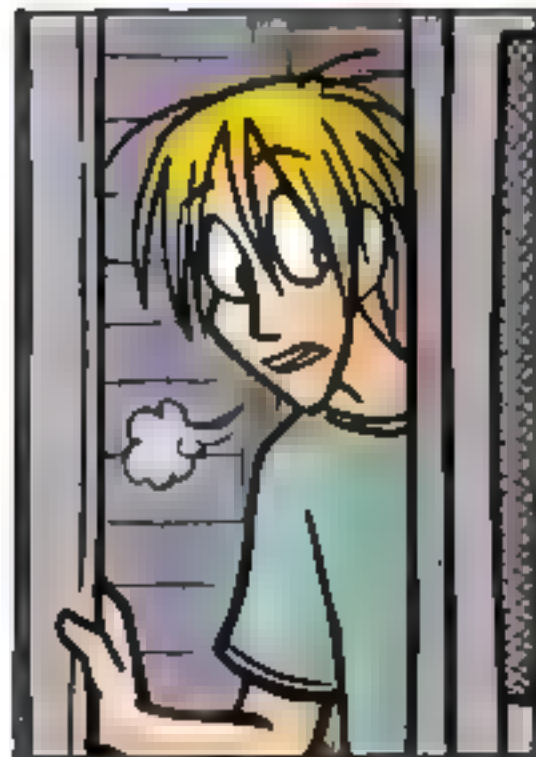








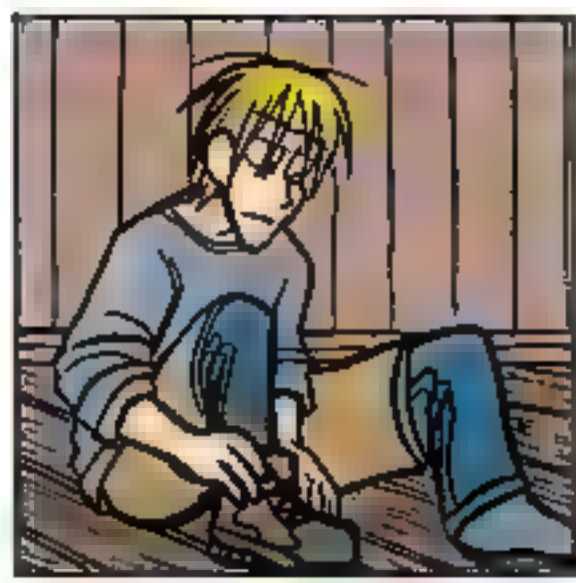




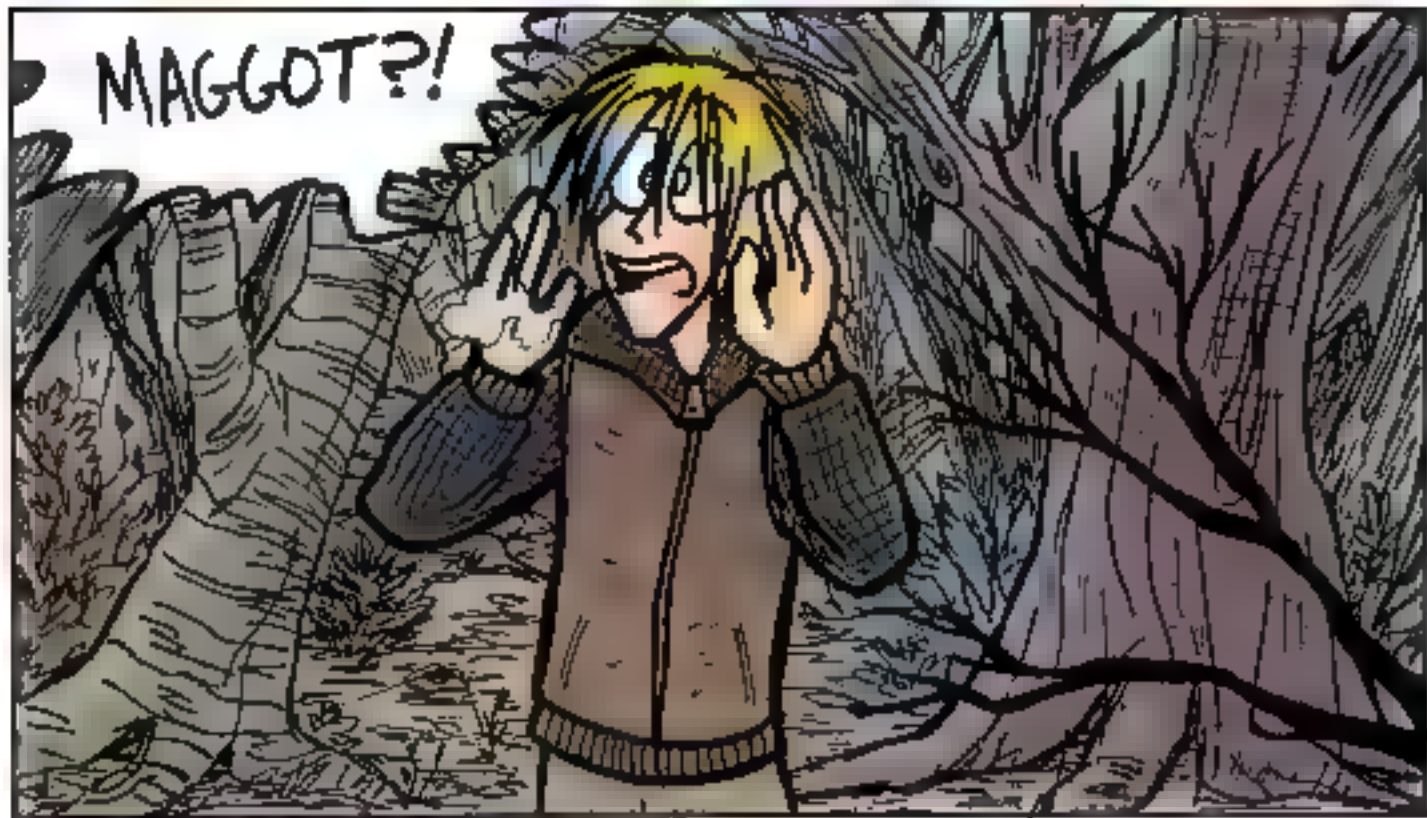
AT LEAST PUT SOME
CLOTHES ON BEFORE
YOU GO OUT IN THE
FREEZING COLD!



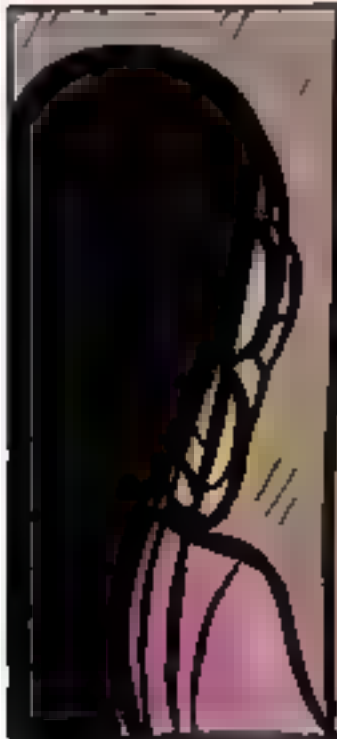
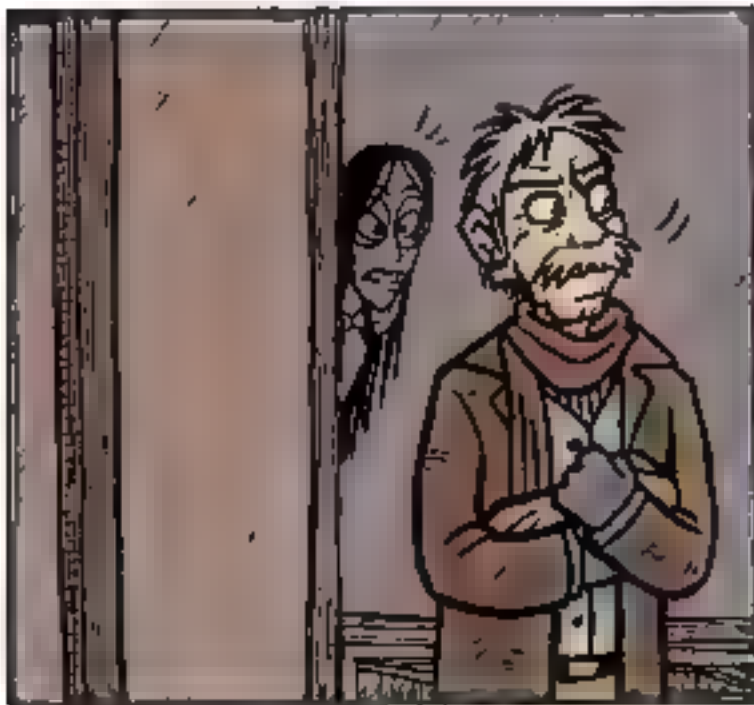
HONESTLY...
THAT
BOY...

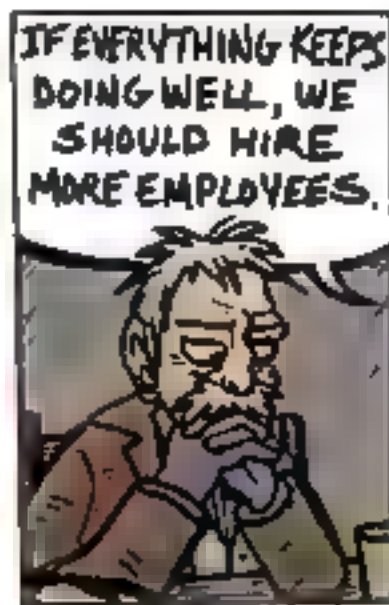
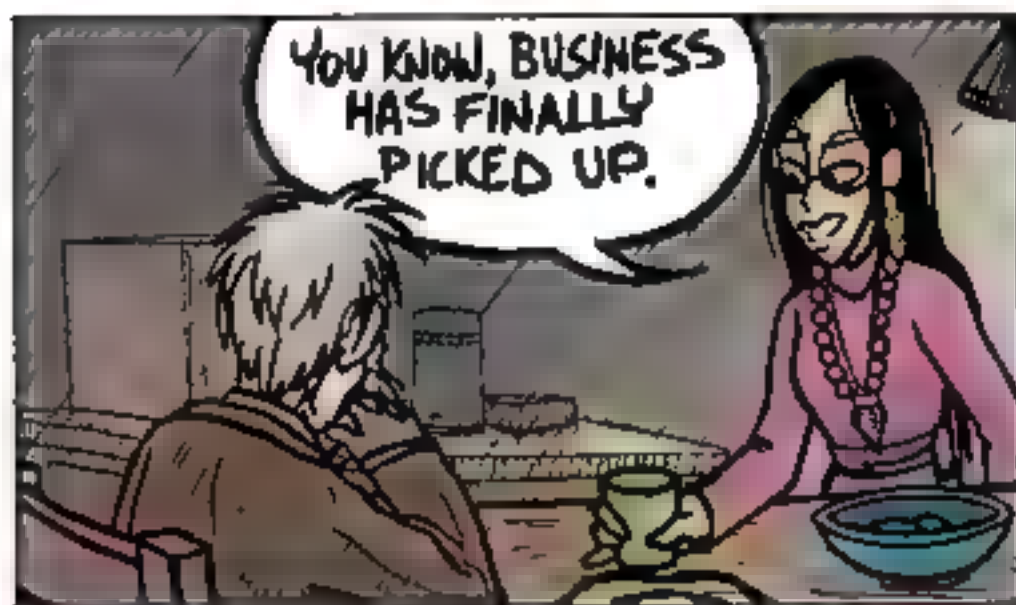
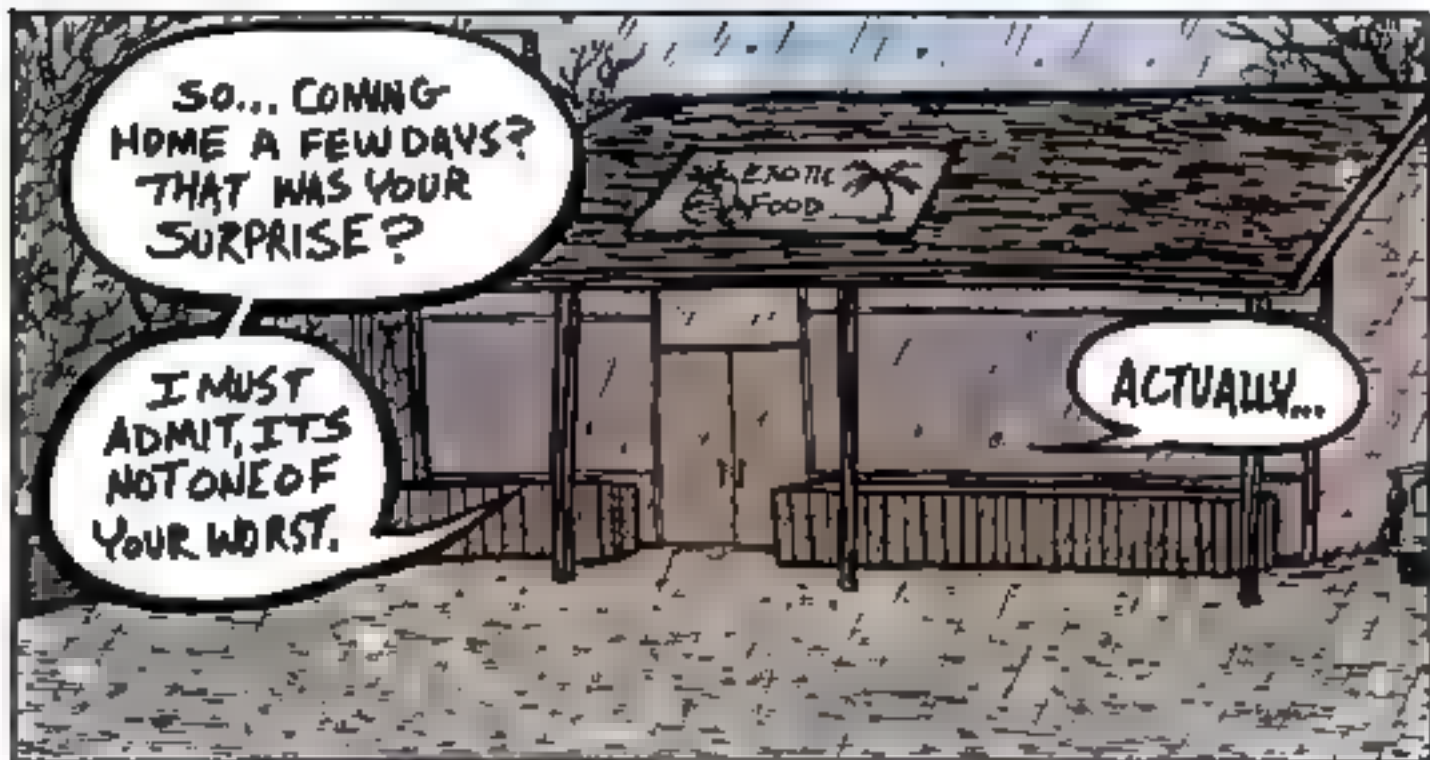


MAGGOT?!





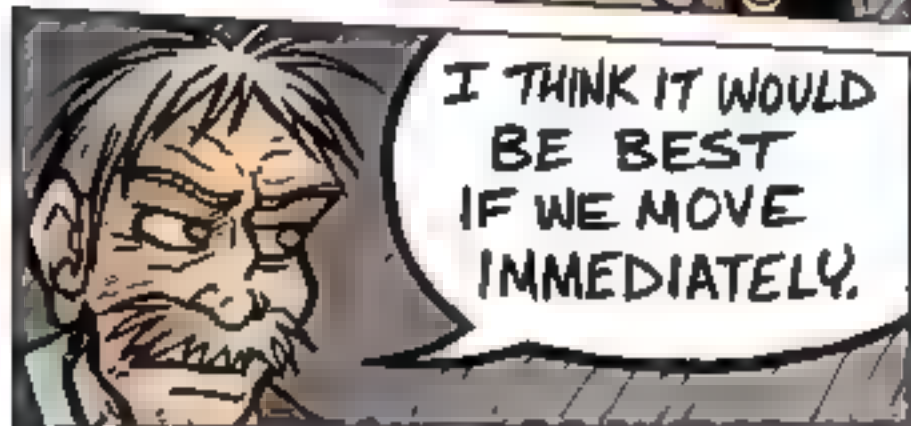




I THOUGHT THIS
WAS WHAT YOU
WANTED!



I THINK IT WOULD
BE BEST
IF WE MOVE
IMMEDIATELY.



WHEN I WAS A KID
YOU ALWAYS TALKED
ABOUT RUNNING YOUR
OWN BUSINESS!



WE'LL SELL
ALL KINDS OF
PRODUCE FROM
THE PLACES
WE'VE SEEN!

AND WHEN YOU FINALLY GOT IT, YOU LEFT
ME ALONE TO DEAL WITH EVERYTHING.



HE COULD HAVE
HELPED THE WHOLE
BUSINESS BEFORE HE LEFT.

BUT I STAYED
BECAUSE I
THOUGHT IT
WAS WHAT
YOU WANTED!

SO WHY WOULD YOU
WANT TO QUIT WHEN
WE'RE STARTING TO
TURN A PROFIT?!

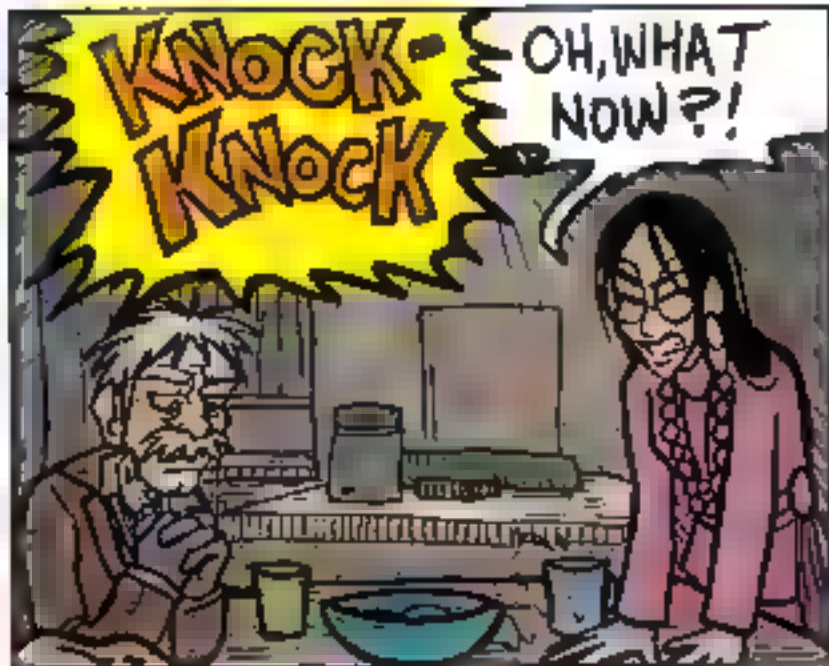


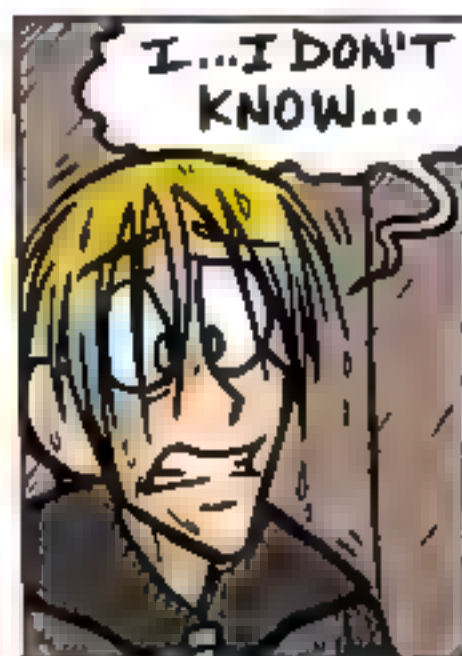
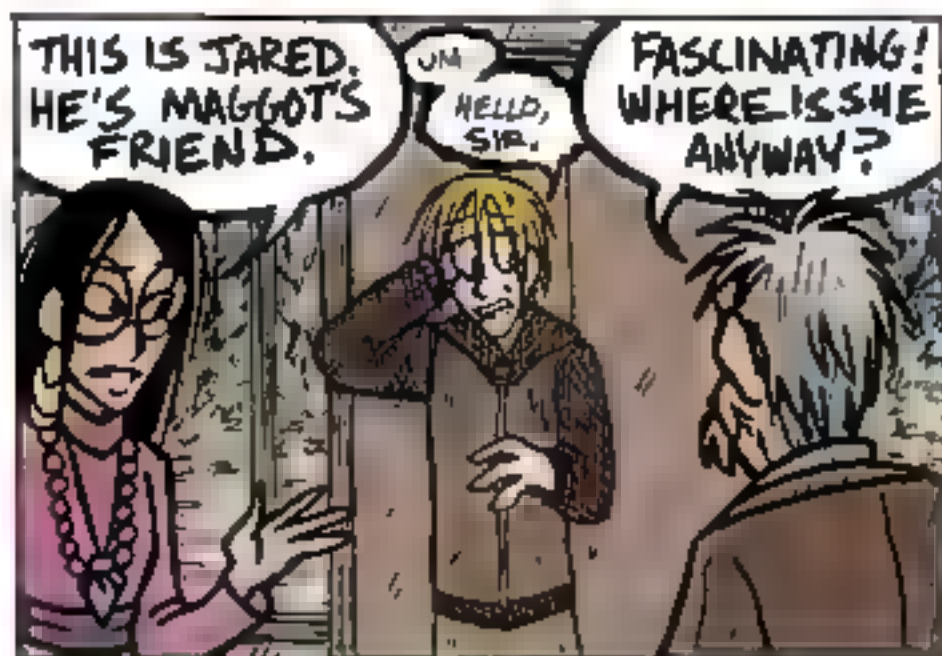
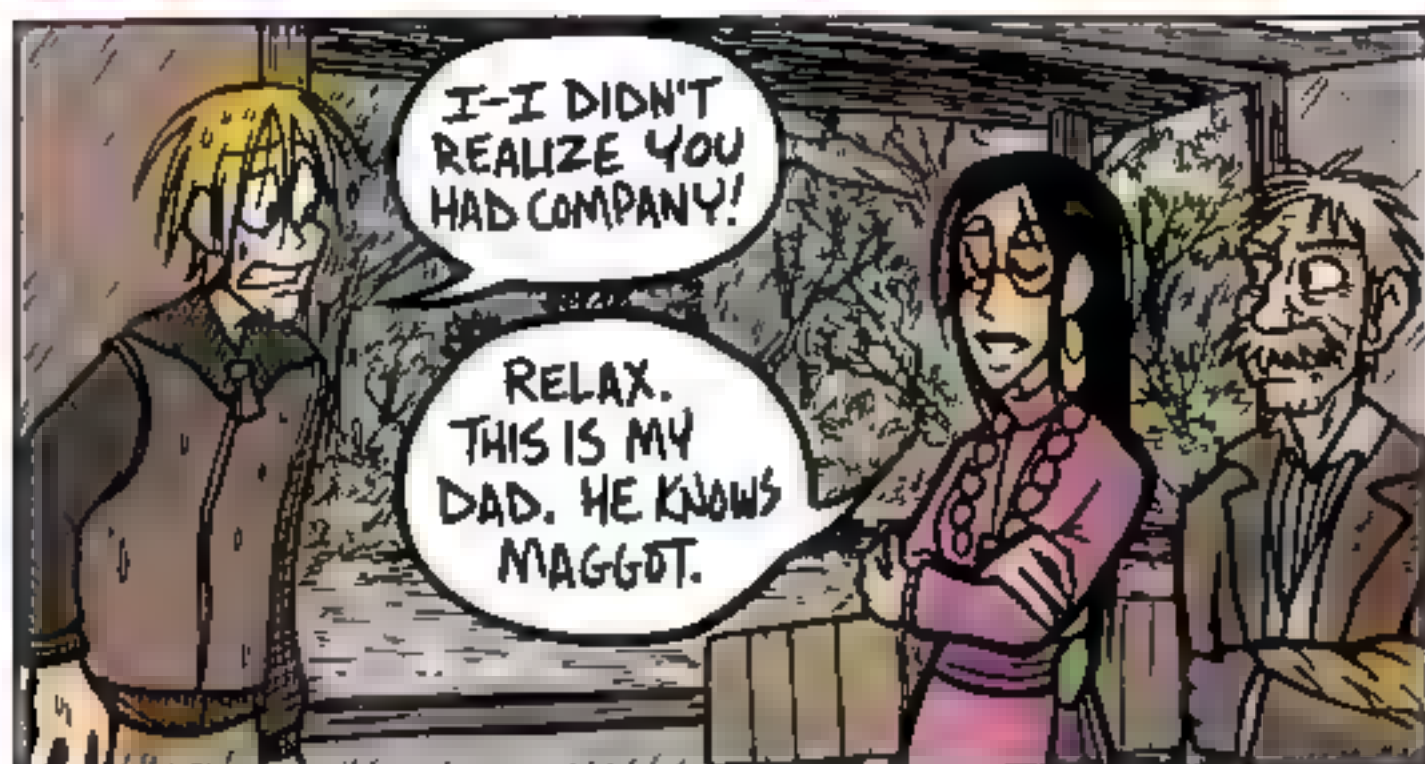
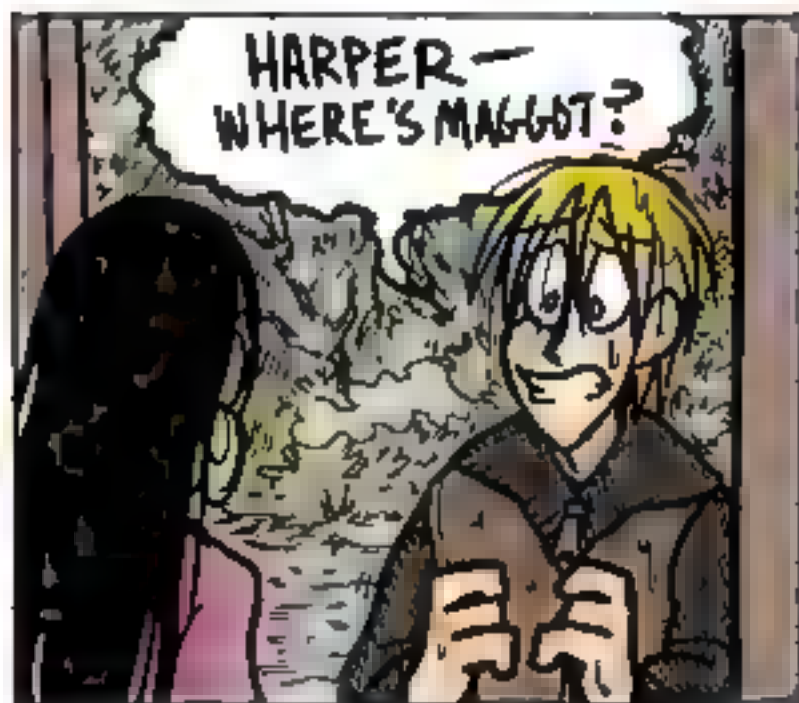
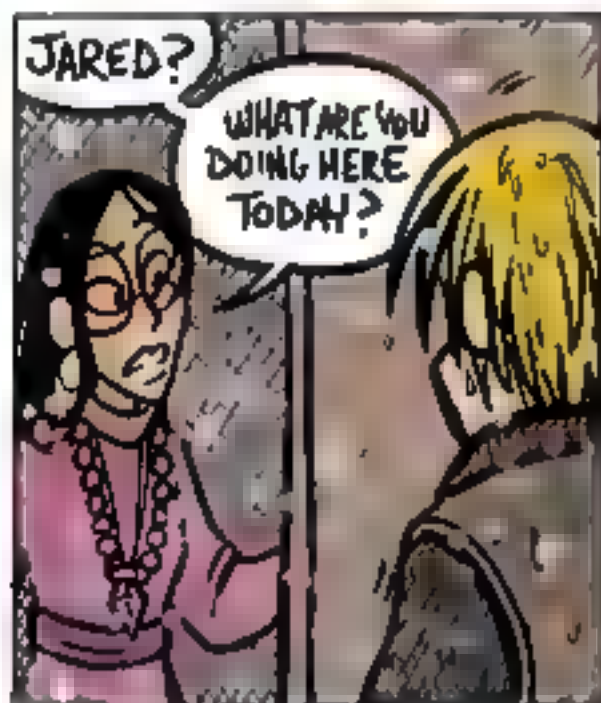
WAIT...
ARE YOU
IN SOME
KIND OF
TROUBLE?

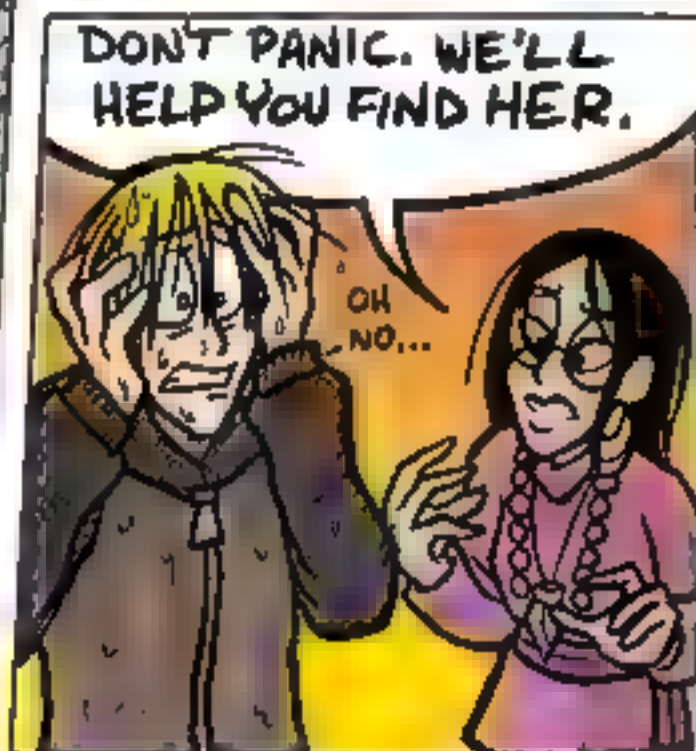
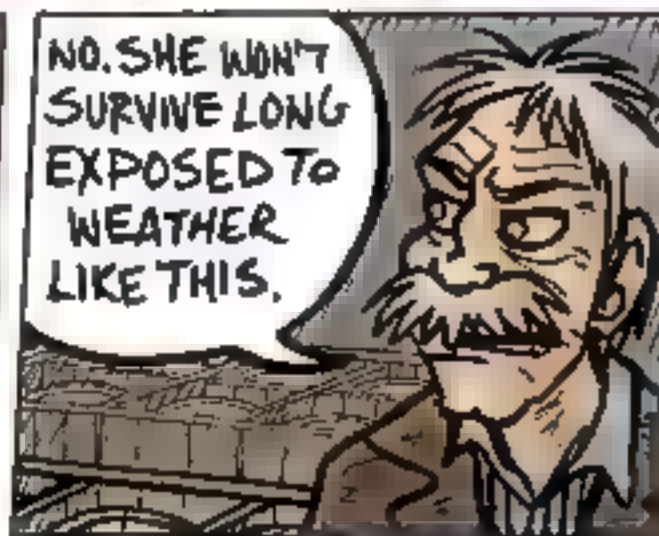
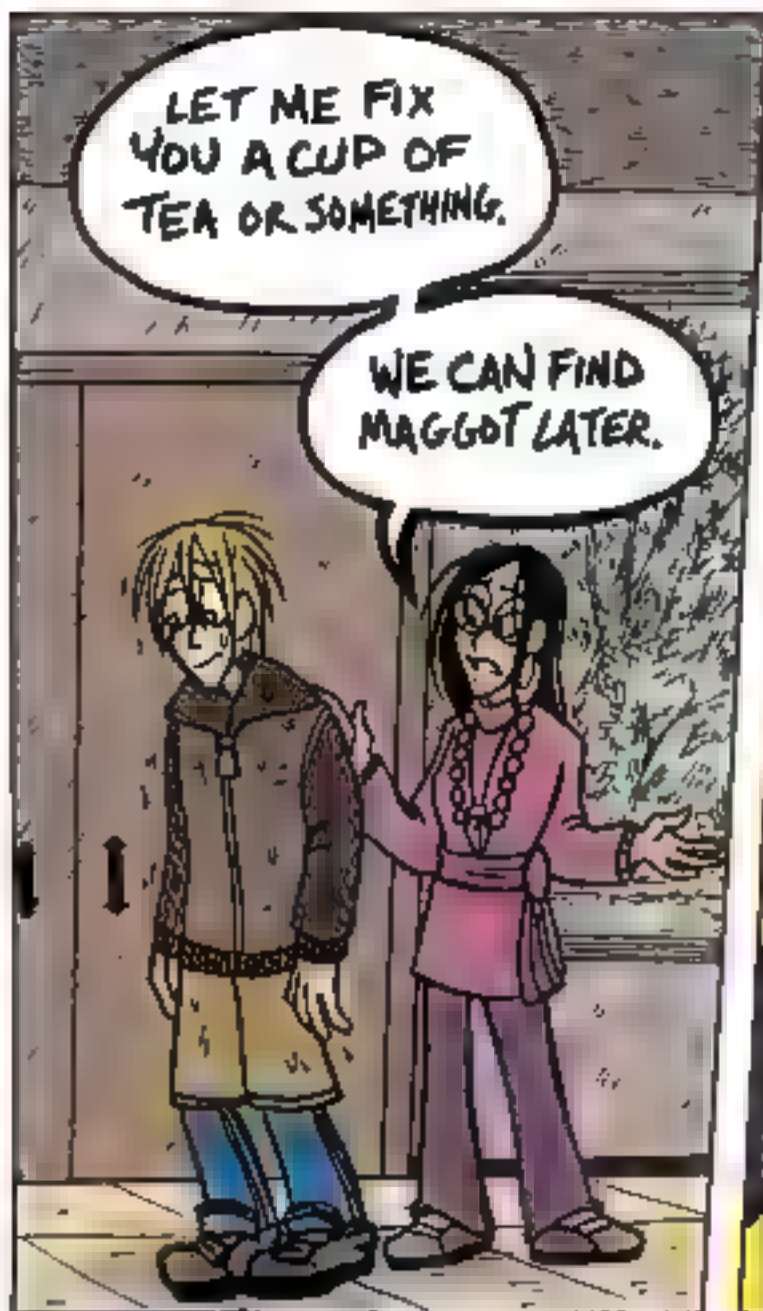
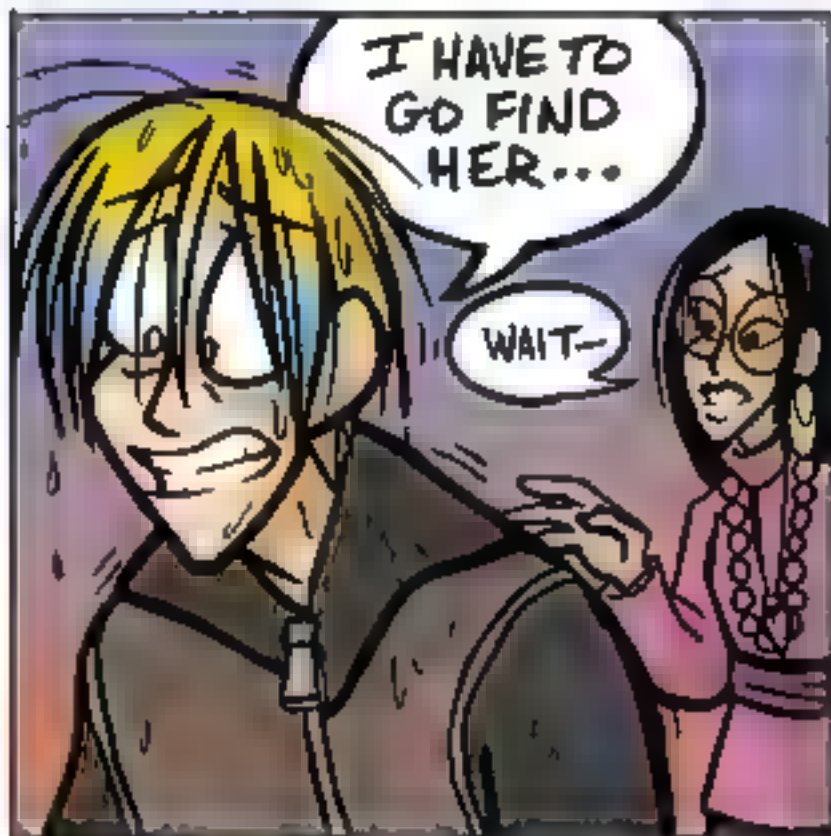


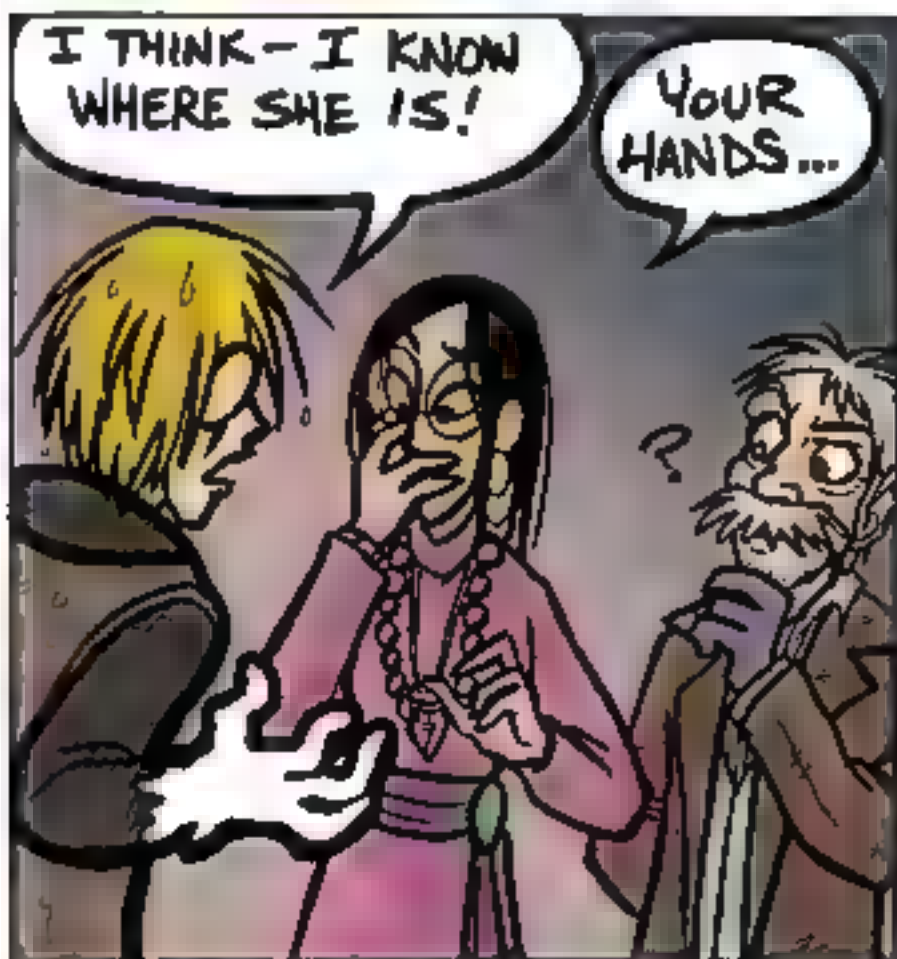
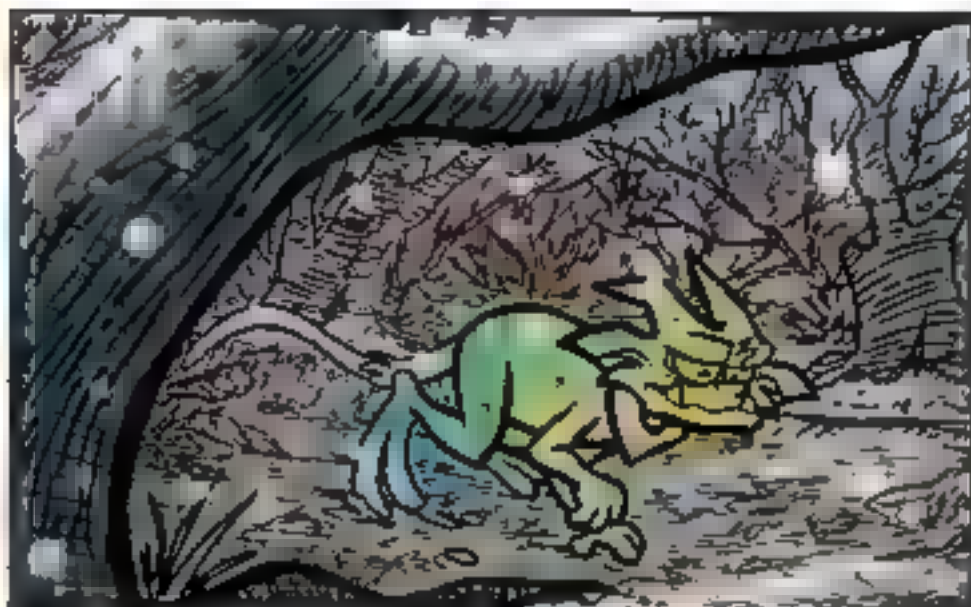
**KNOCK-
KNOCK**

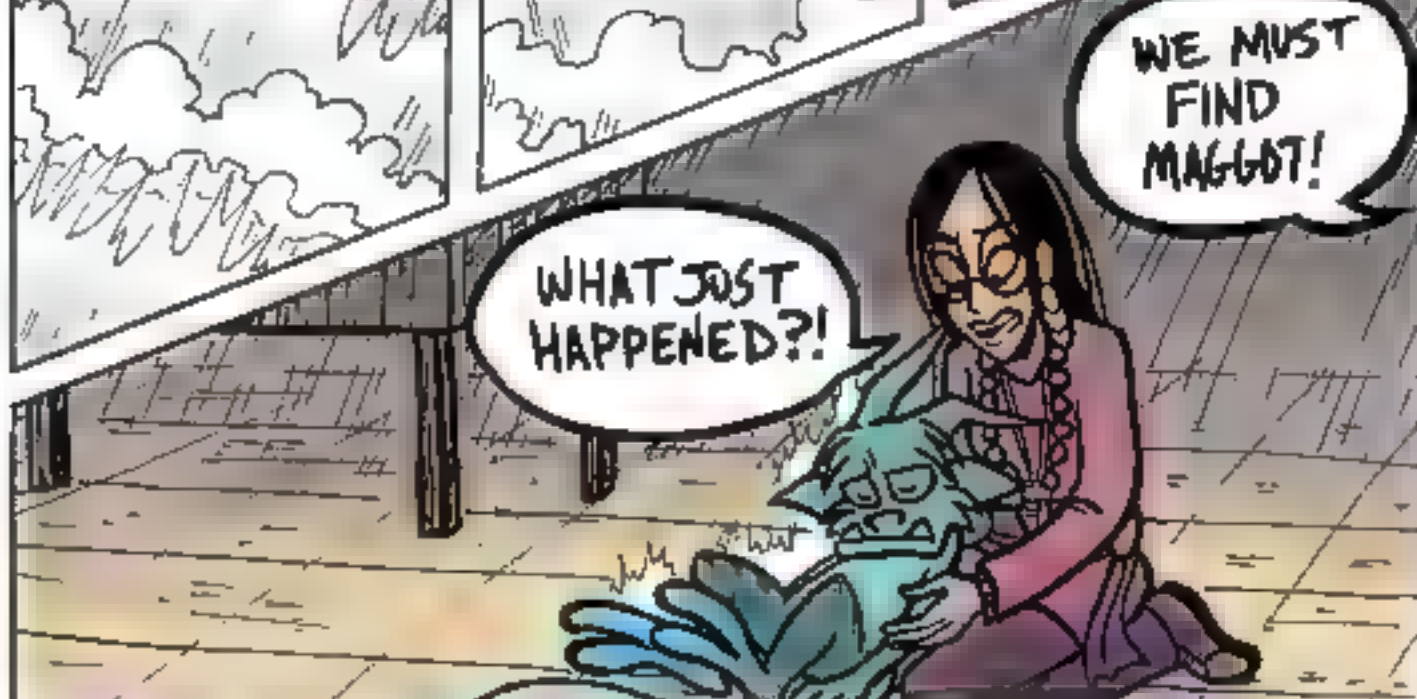
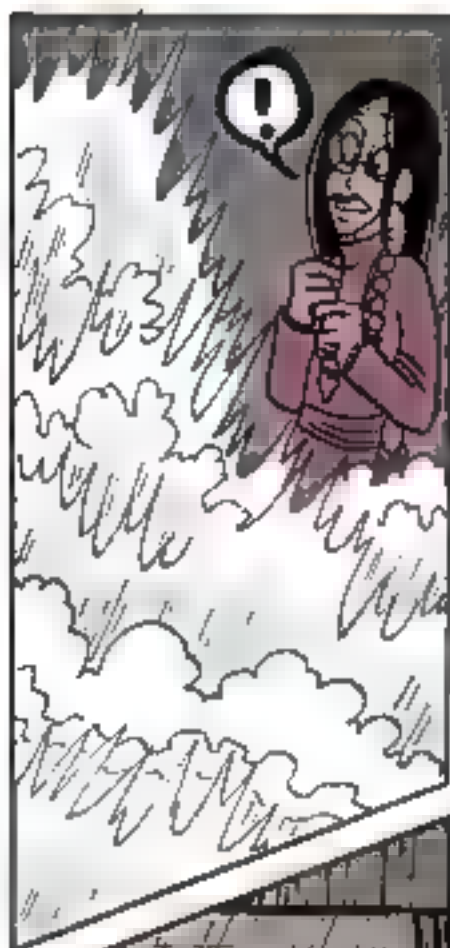
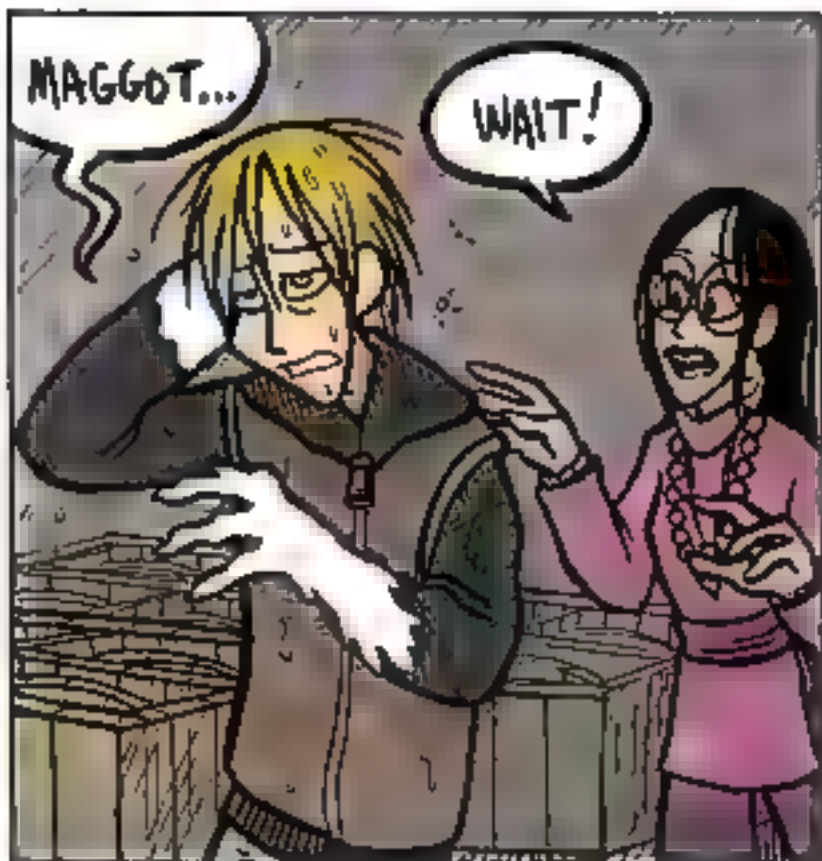
OH, WHAT
NOW?!

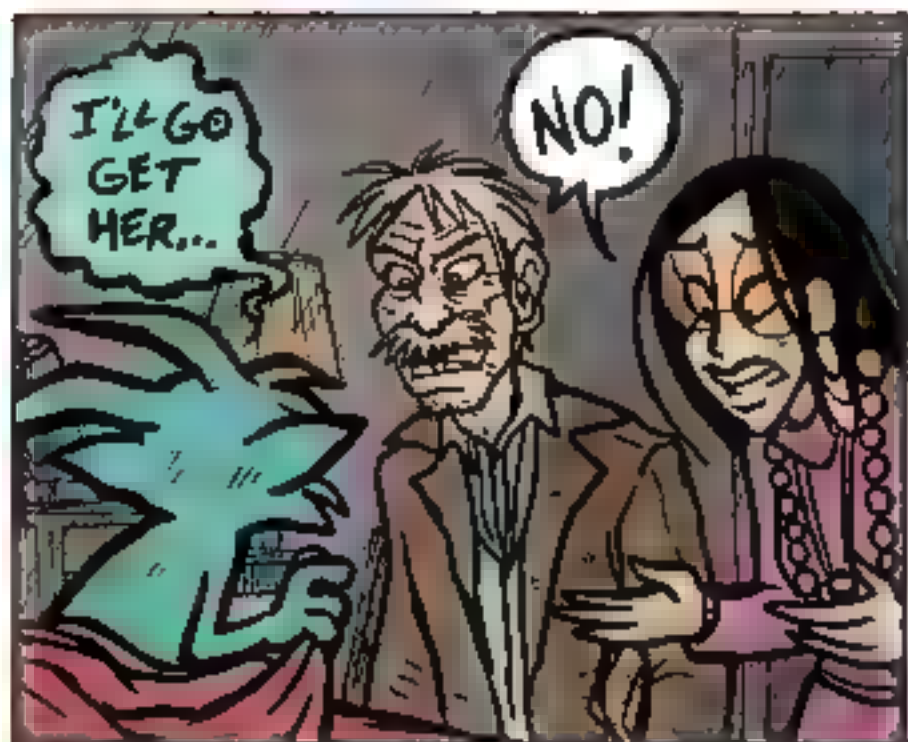
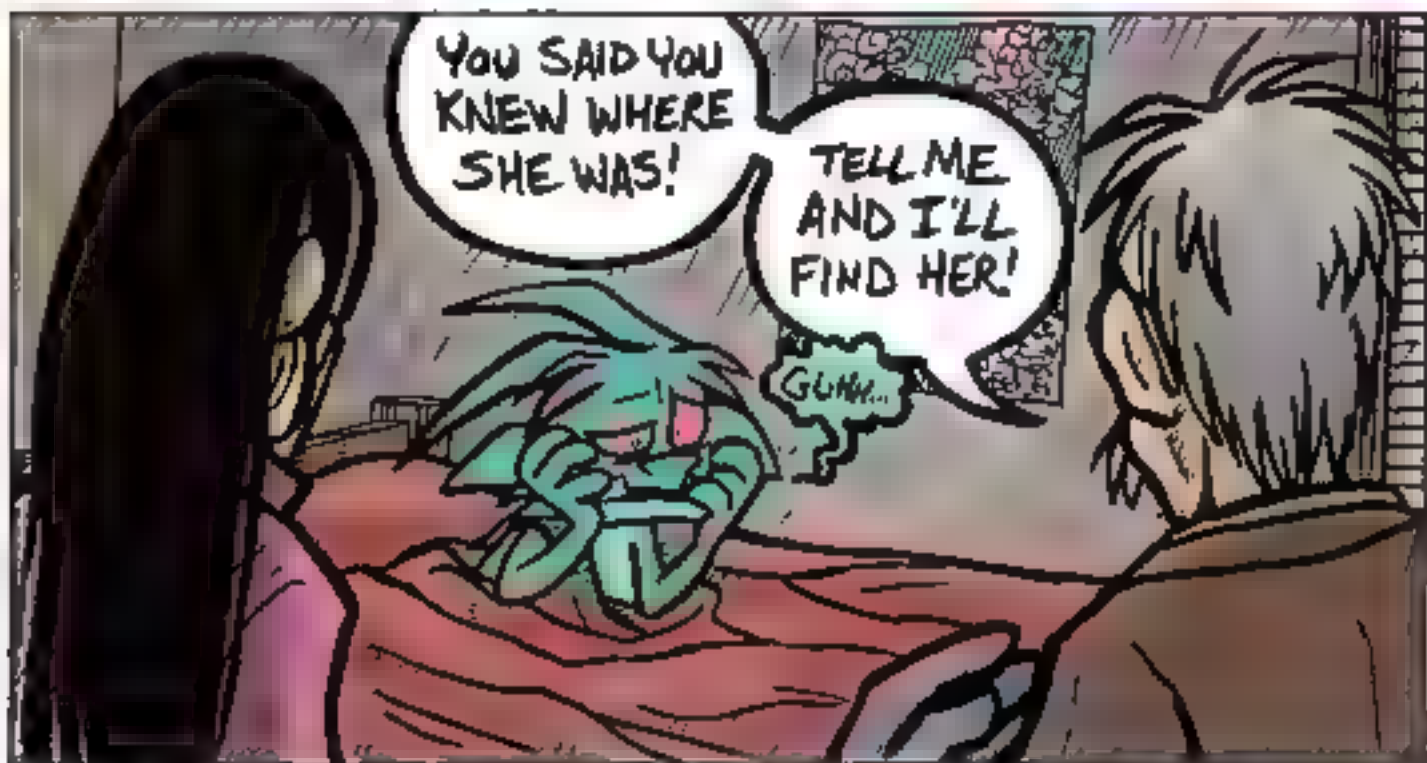
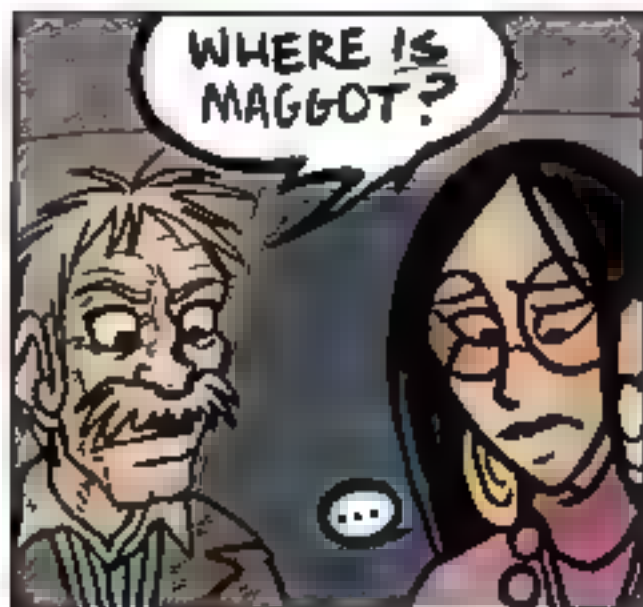
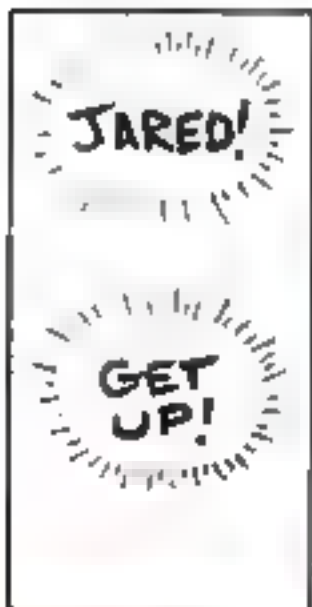


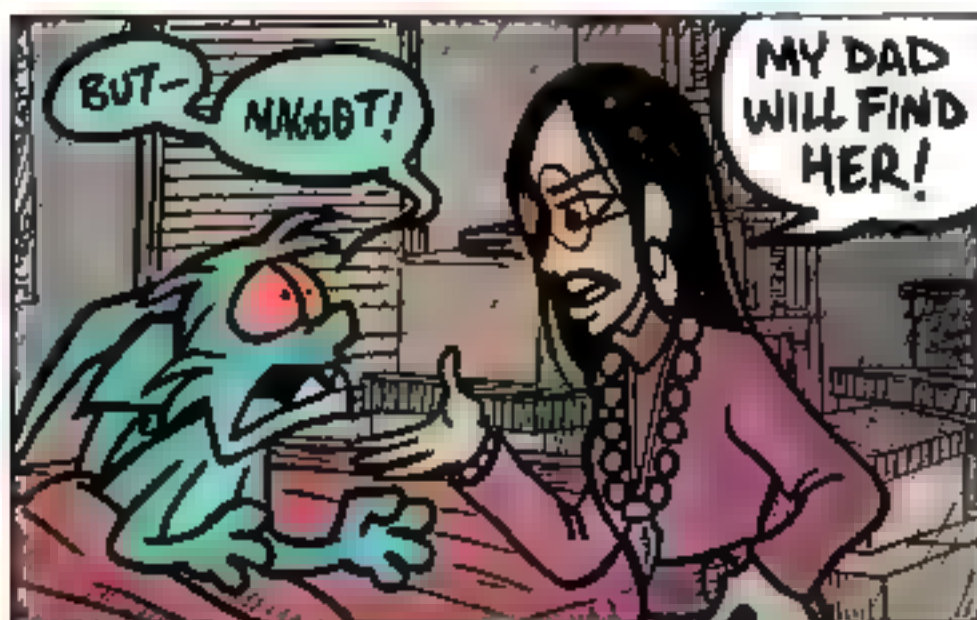
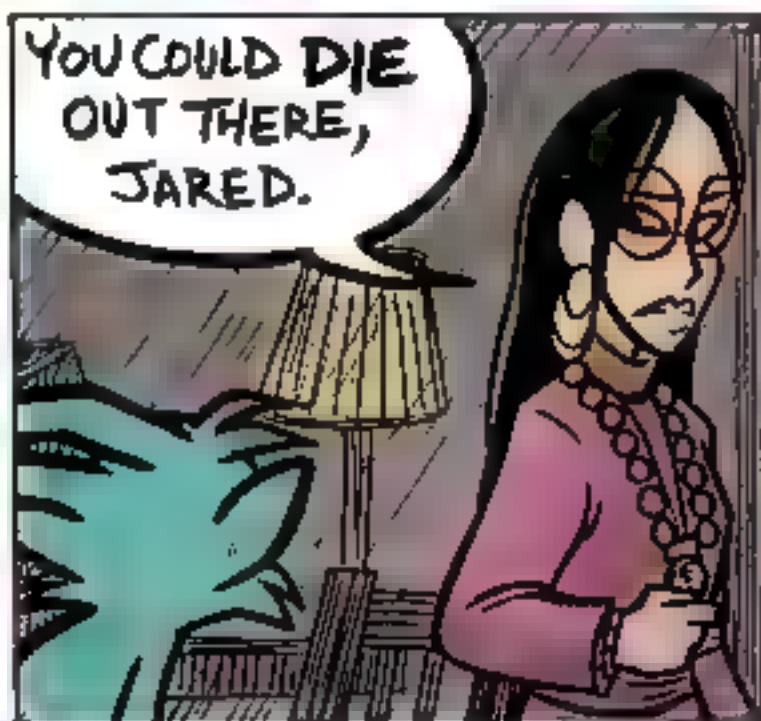


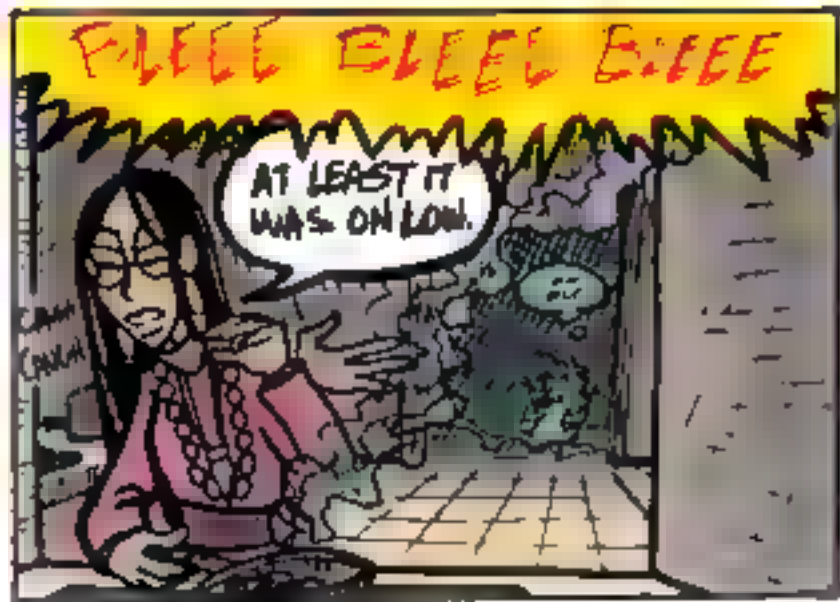
















MAGGOT!
ANSWER
ME!!



HOW...

HOW COULD
SHE MAKE IT SO
F-FAR WITHOUT
F-FREEZING?



MY EARS
ARE STILL
RINGING..



HEY... THE SNOW'S
STICKING...

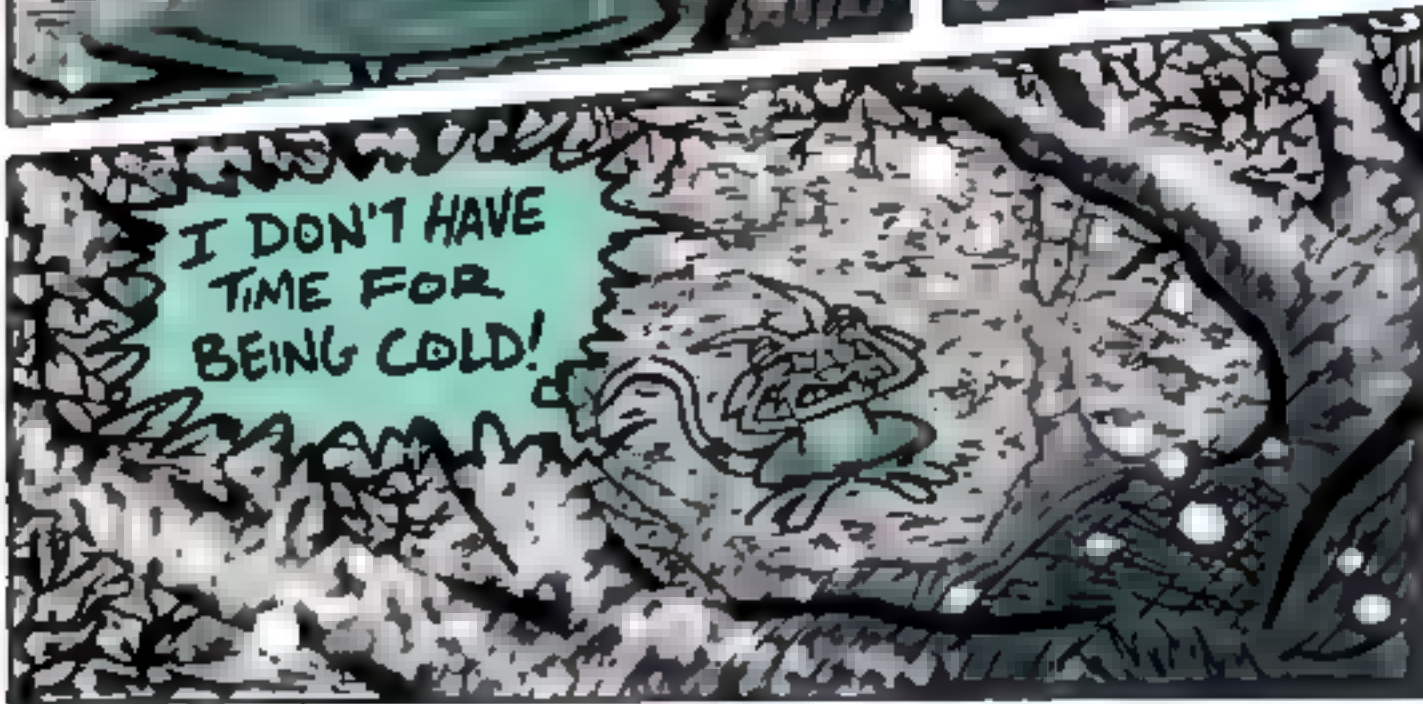
IT'S BEEN SO
LONG SINCE
I'VE SEEN IT...



WHAT AM I
DOING?!

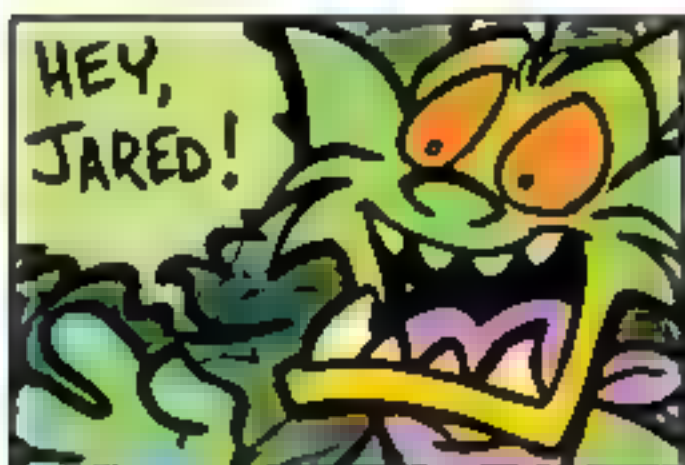
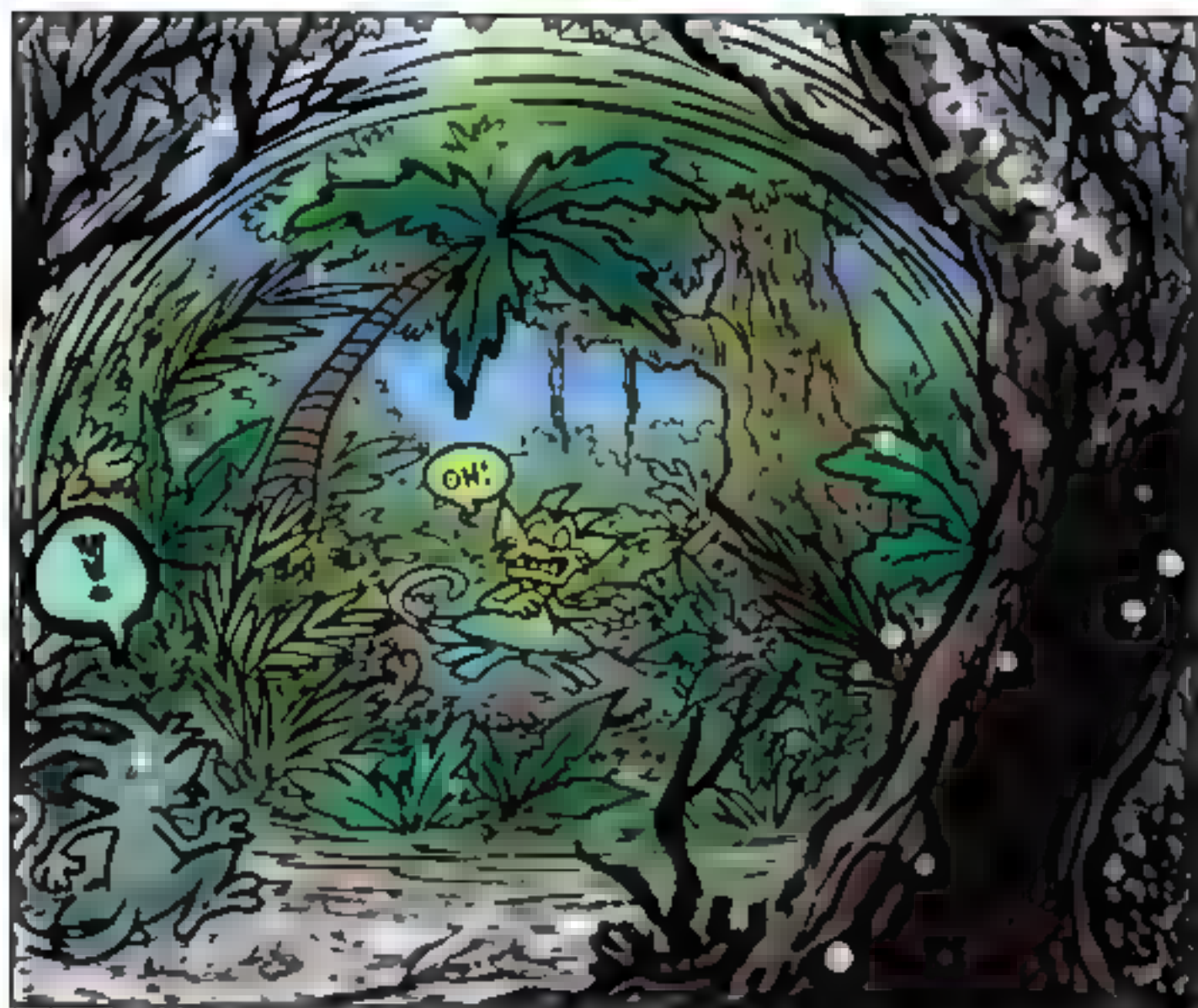


I DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR
BEING COLD!



BUT I AM COLD.





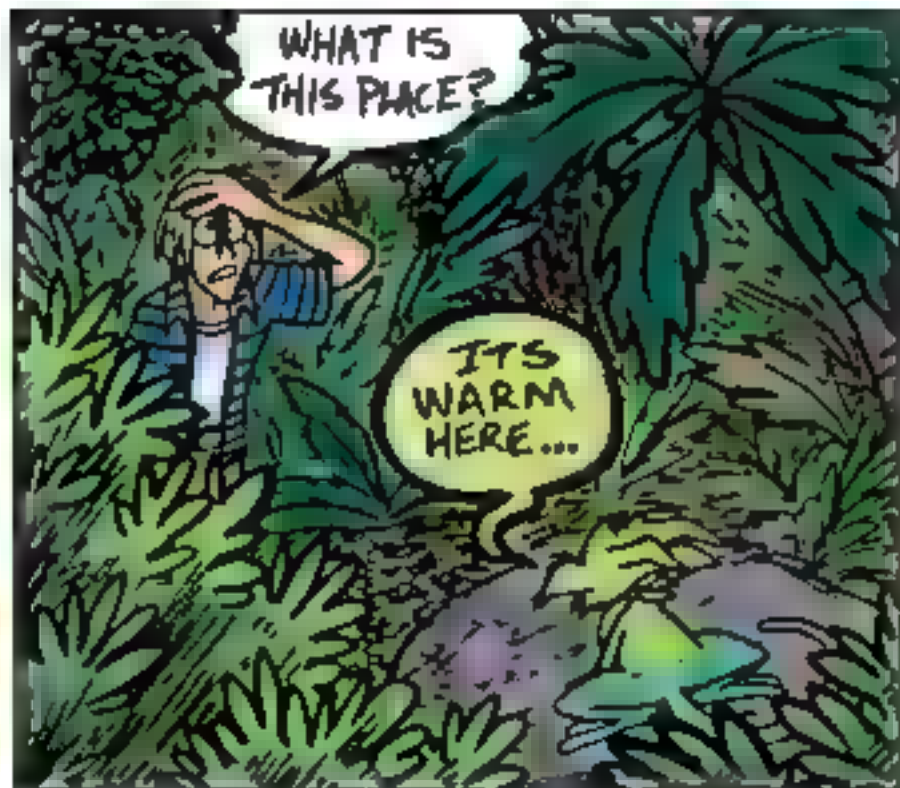
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
YOU'LL HAVE TO
COME CLOSER!



I'M BACK TO
NORMAL!



WHAT IS
THIS PLACE?



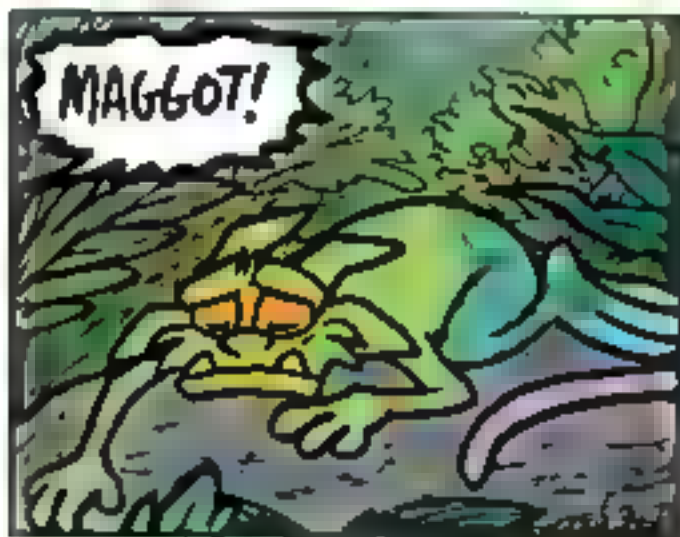
IT'S
WARM
HERE...

IT LOOKS
LIKE THE
ISLAND.

I CAN'T
EVEN SEE
THE WOODS.



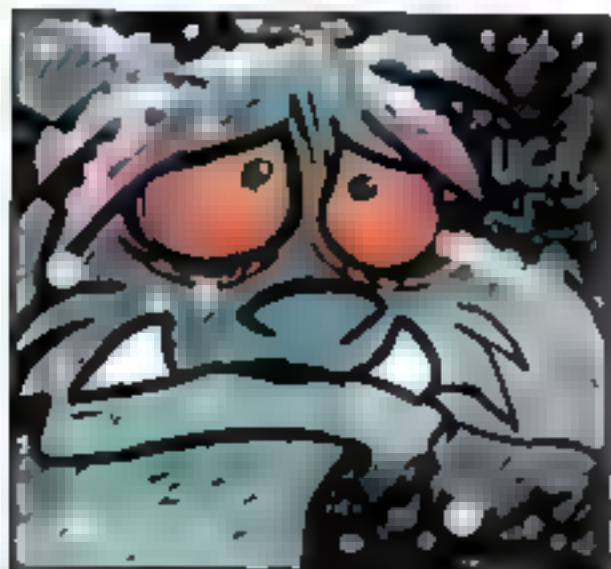
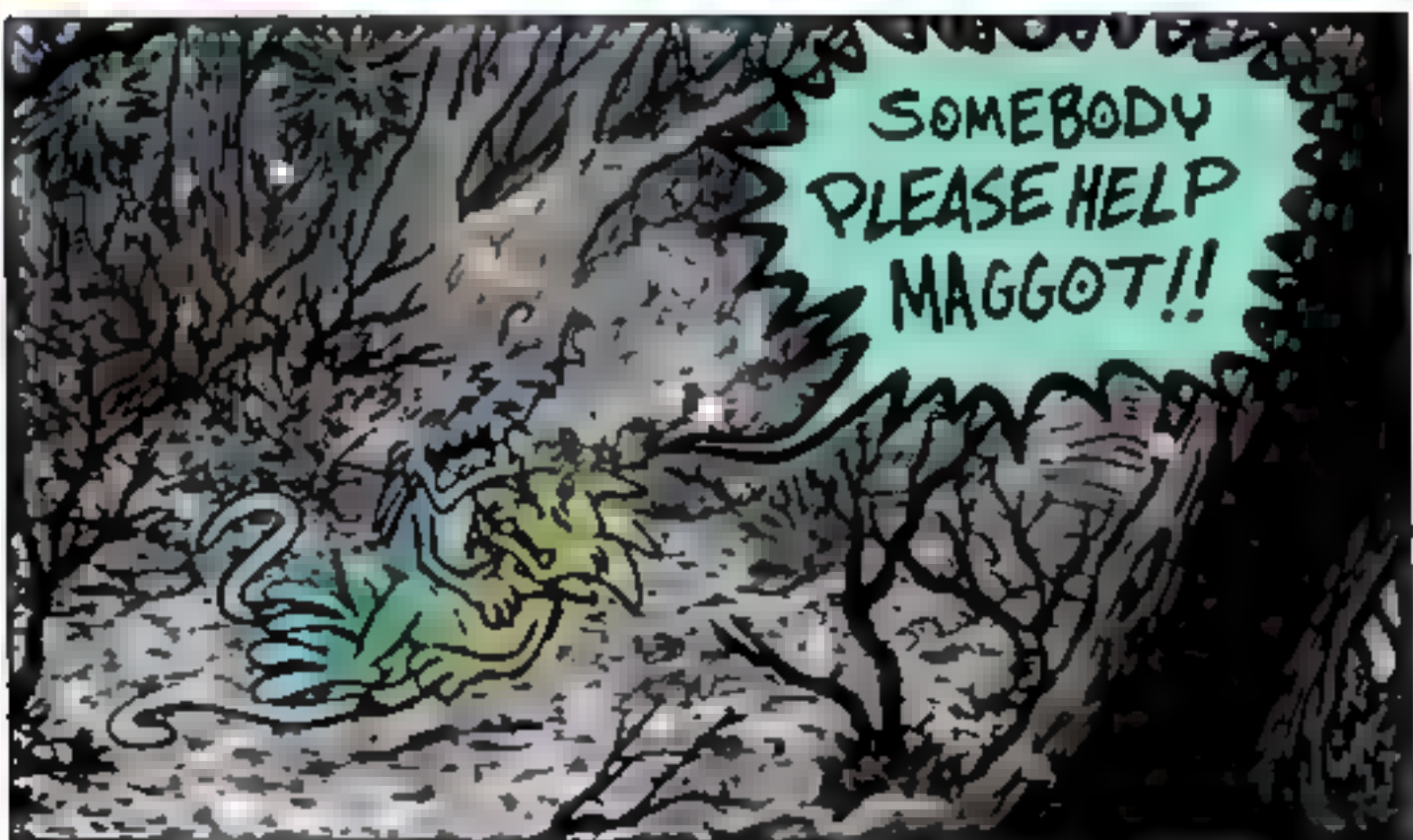
MAGGOT!



ARE
YOU
OKAY?







MAGGOT!

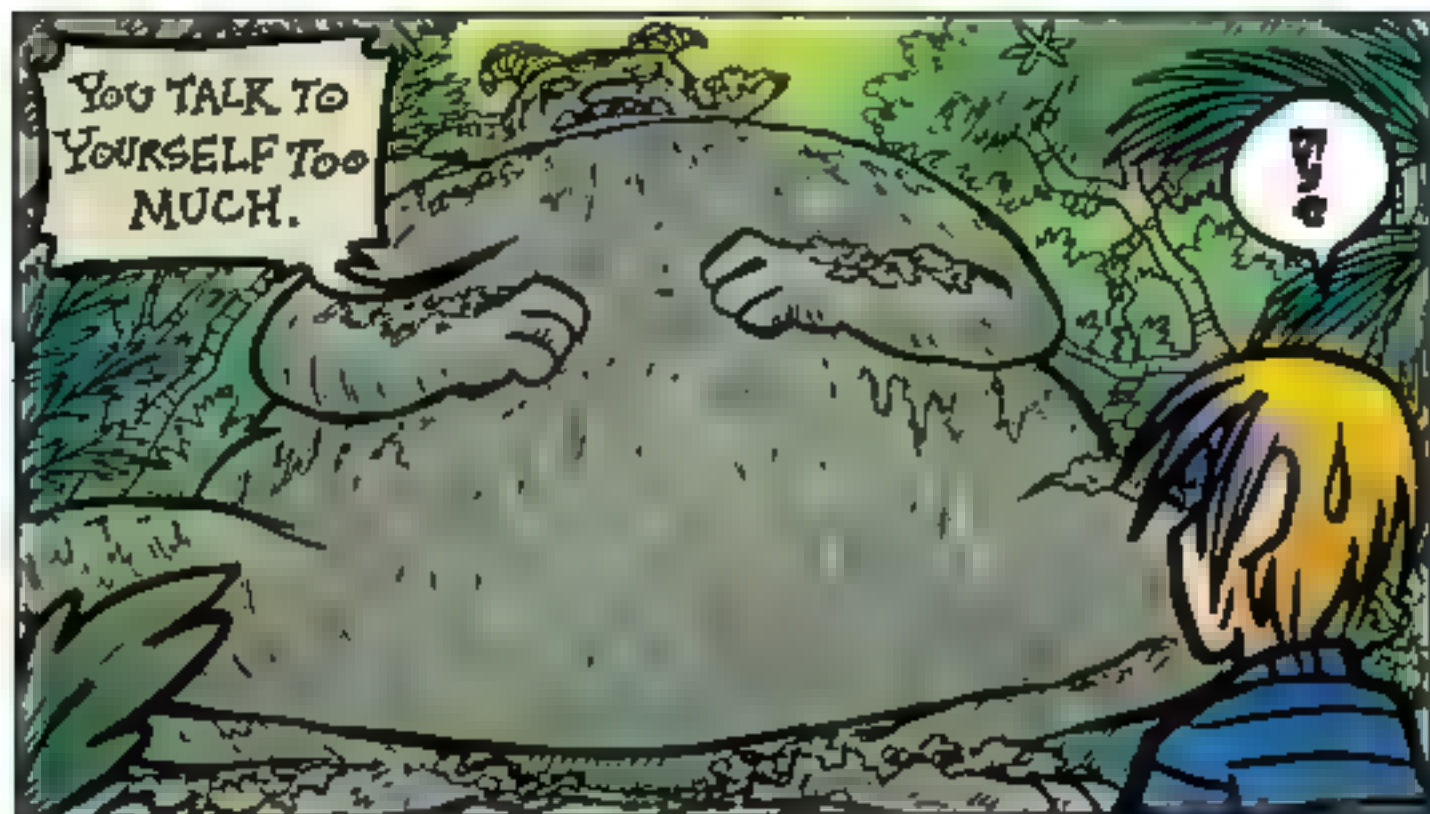
WHERE
ARE YOU?!

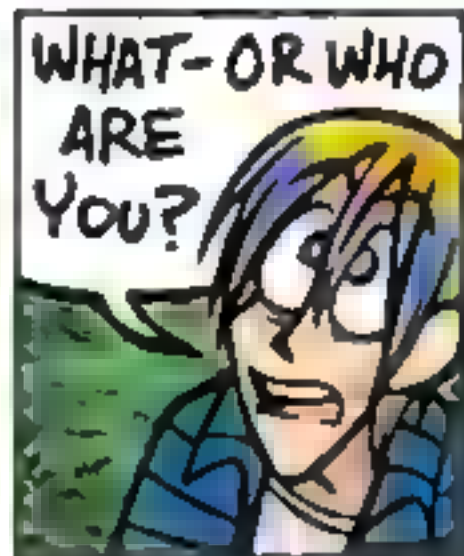
WAIT...

THERE'S
NOTHING
HERE.

AM I
DEAD OR
DREAMING?

IT'S THE
ISLAND!







YOU WALK AROUND
IN HUMAN SKIN...



BUT
CLEARLY..



...YOU
ARE NOT.

BUT
I—

THAT
CAN'T BE
RIGHT!



I BELIEVE
YOU'VE KNOWN
FOR A WHILE
....



YOU ARE A
PARASITE.



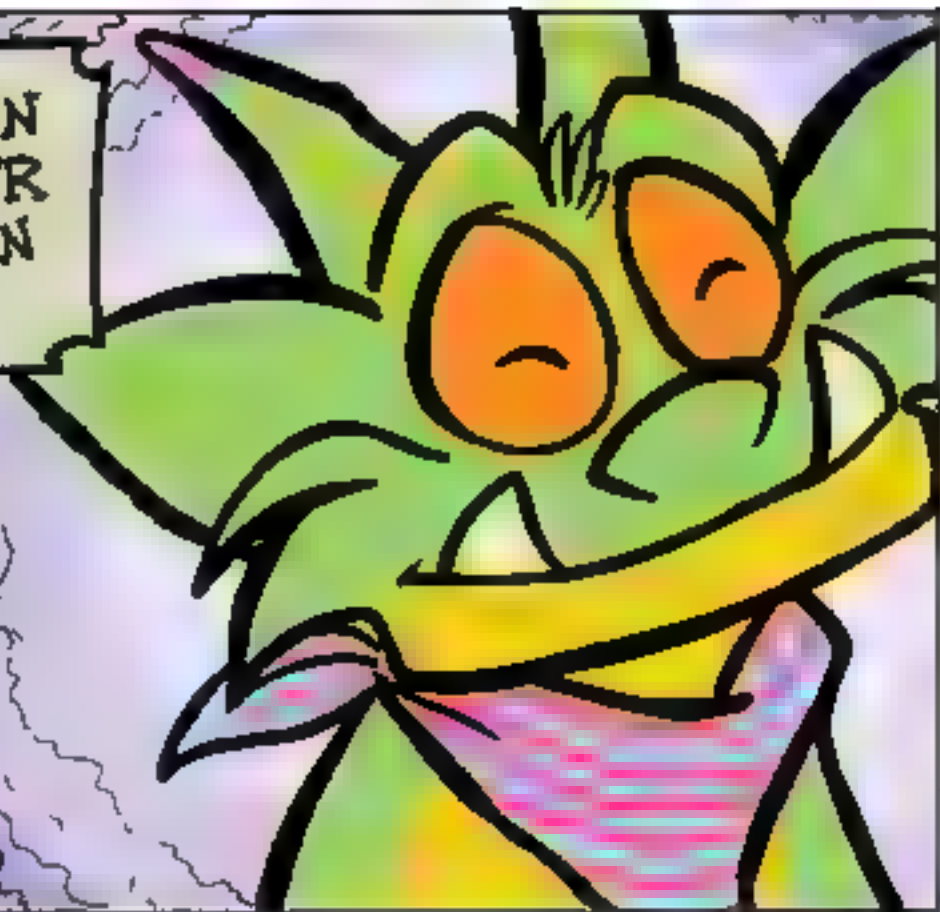
IN CREATING SUCH A LARGE LOOPHOLE IN REALITY SHE CONSTANTLY DRAINS HER OWN ENERGY.



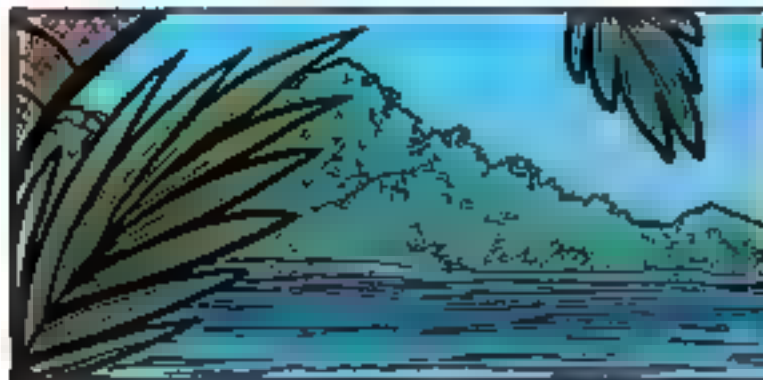
FROGOBLIMS AREN'T MEANT FOR COLD WEATHER SO IT'S ESPECIALLY HARD ON HER NOW.



SHE'S NOT EVEN
AWARE OF HER
DISTORTIONS ON
REALITY.



IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION,
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
AFTER ALL, SHE WAS THE
ONE WHO TRANSFORMED
YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.



THE FACT OF THE MATTER
IS SHE PREFERENCES YOU
IN
THE FORM YOU ARE MOST
COMFORTABLE WITH—HUMAN.



...THOUGH YOU HAVEN'T
REALLY BEEN HUMAN
SINCE THAT DAY...



MAGGOT HAS STRUGGLED WITH THE TEMPERATURE CHANGE. IN A LAST DITCH EFFORT TO STAY WARM, SHE PUT ALL HER ENERGY INTO CREATING A POCKET OF REALITY.



THE PLACE SHE CREATED WAS ENOUGH TO KEEP HER ALIVE IN THE COLD. BUT WHEN YOU ENTERED, IT ONLY FURTHER DRAINED HER ENERGY.

BUT WHY...? I WOULD NEVER WANT TO HURT MAGGOT.



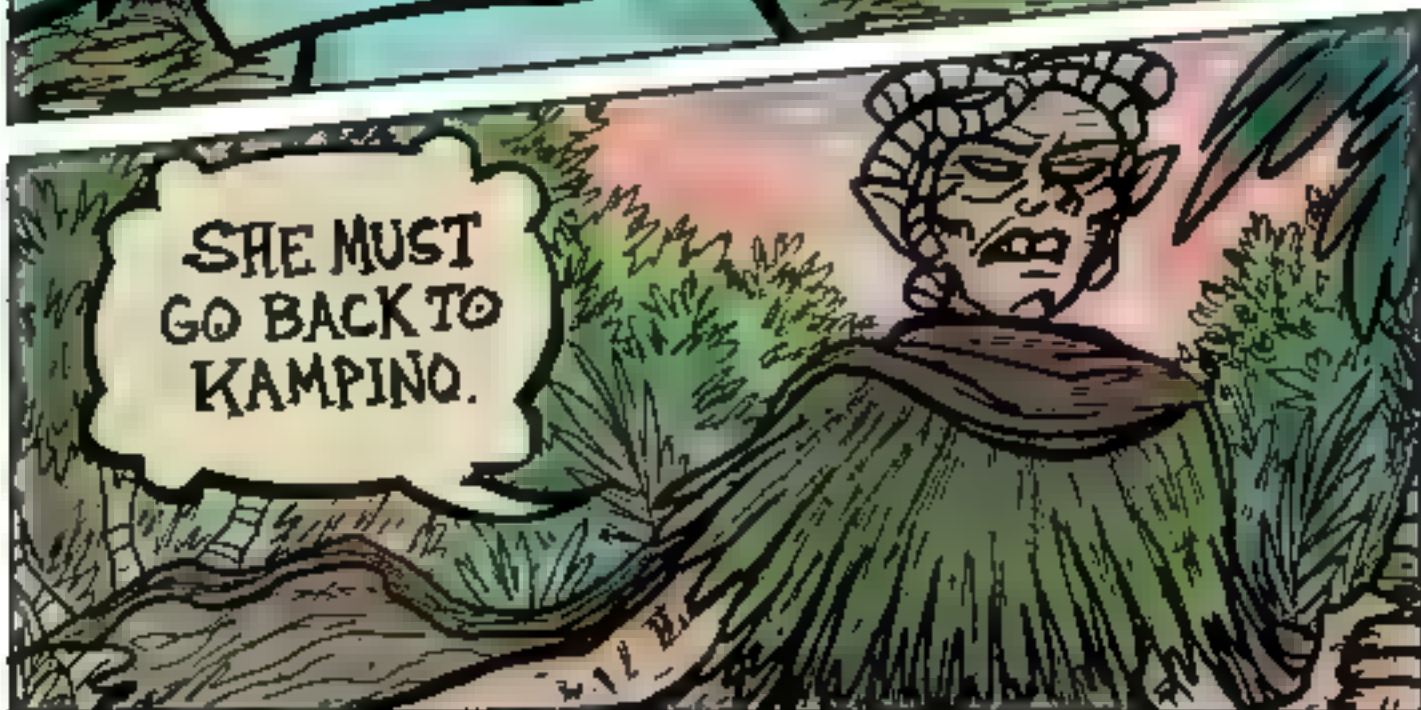
I TOLD YOU. IT'S SOMETHING SHE'S DOING SUBCONCIOUSLY.

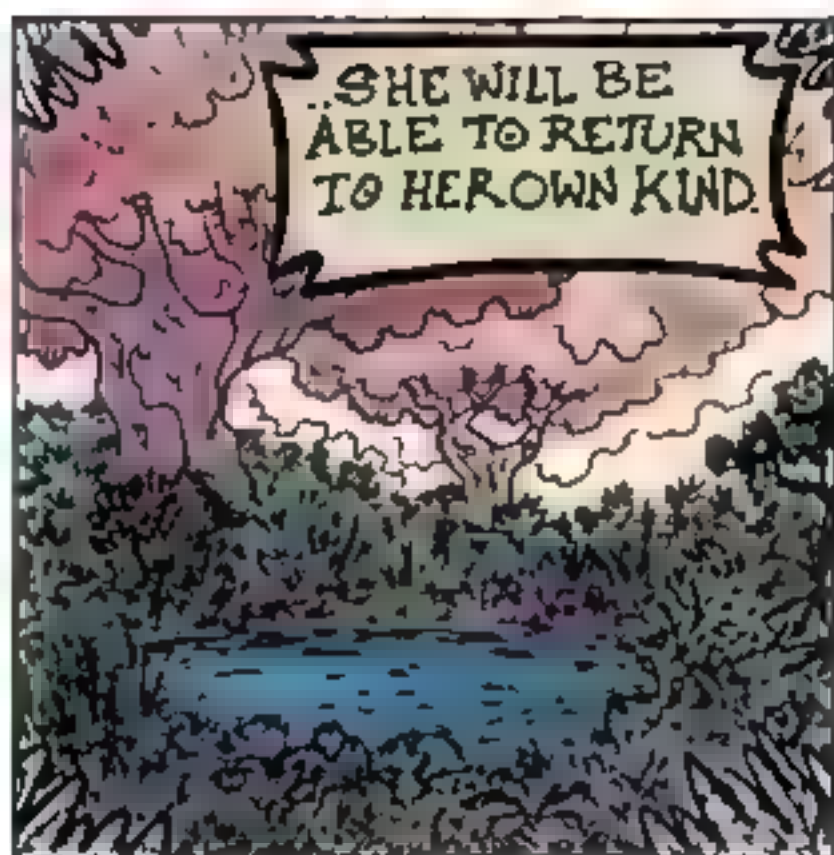


THEN... WHAT CAN I DO? HOW CAN I HELP HER?

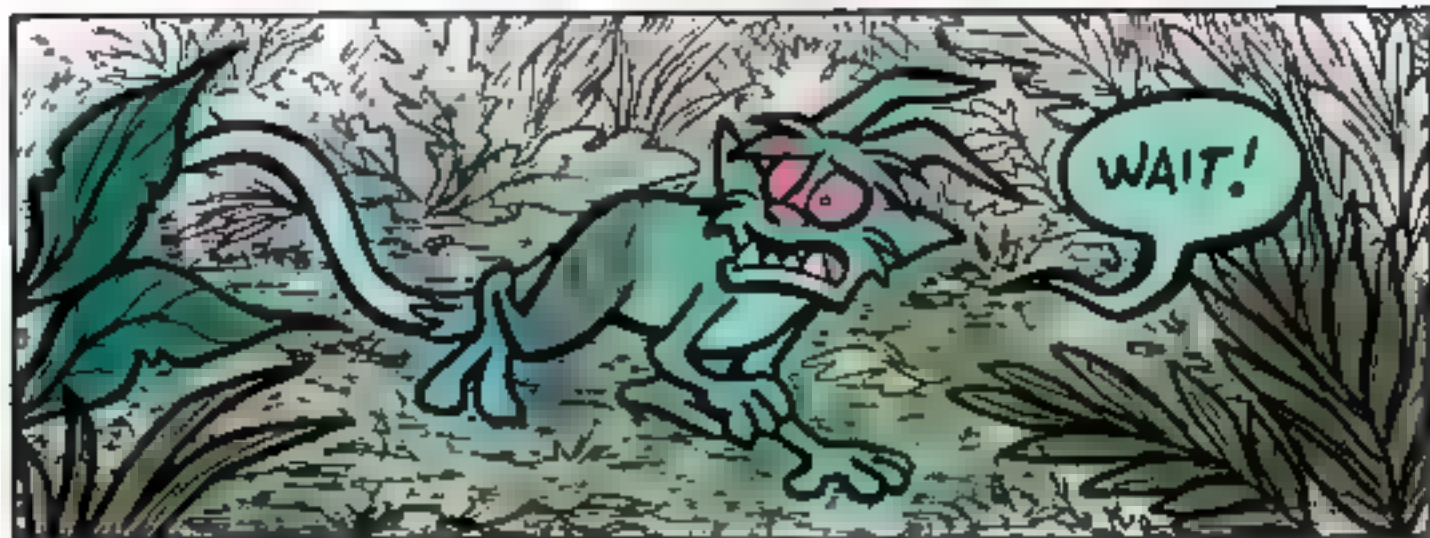


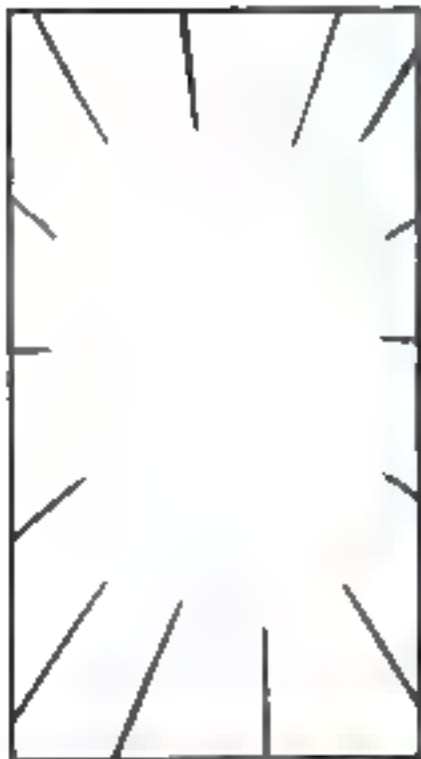
SHE MUST GO BACK TO KAMPINO.









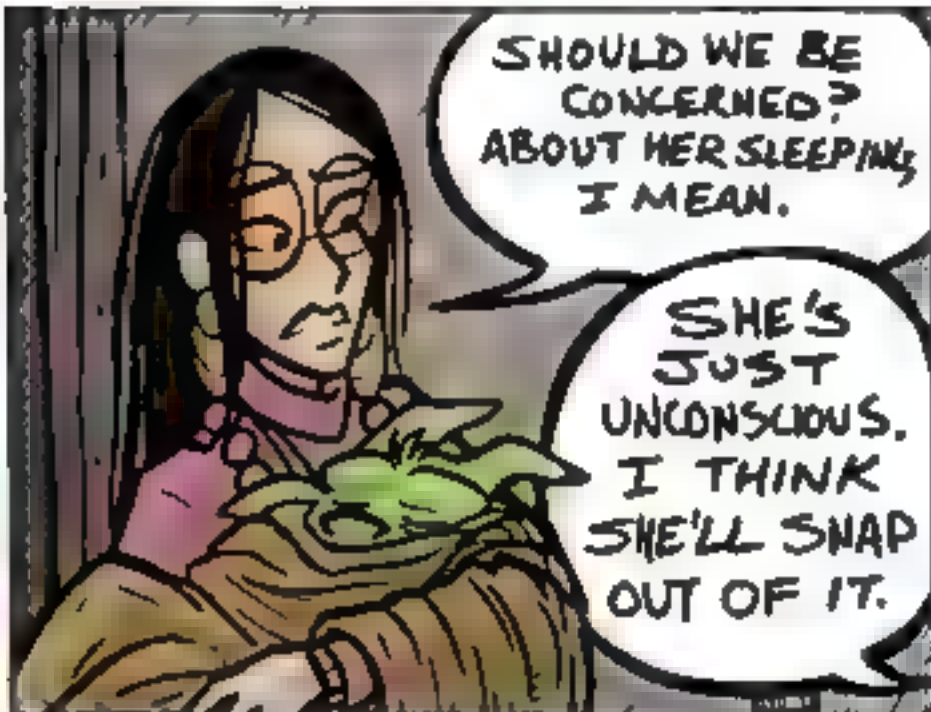


SHE'LL BE ALRIGHT
ONCE SHE WARMS UP.



SHOULD WE BE
CONCERNED?
ABOUT HER SLEEPING,
I MEAN.

SHE'S
JUST
UNCONSCIOUS.
I THINK
SHE'LL SNAP
OUT OF IT.



AT THIS POINT,
I'M MORE
CONCERNED
ABOUT YOUR
OTHER FRIEND.

HMPH.



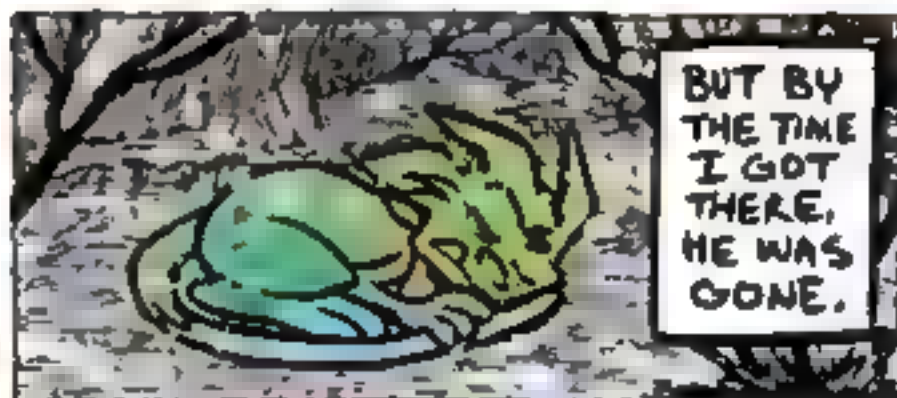
HE SHOULDN'T
HAVE RUN OFF
ANYWAY.



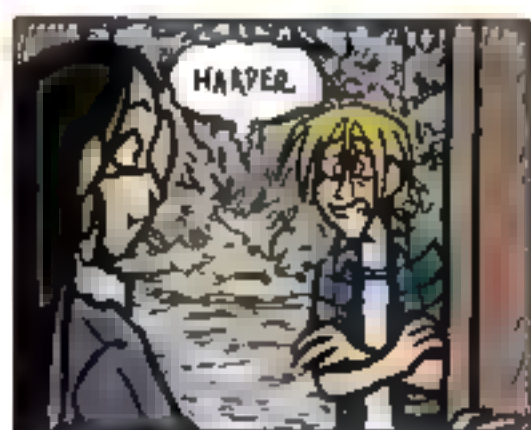
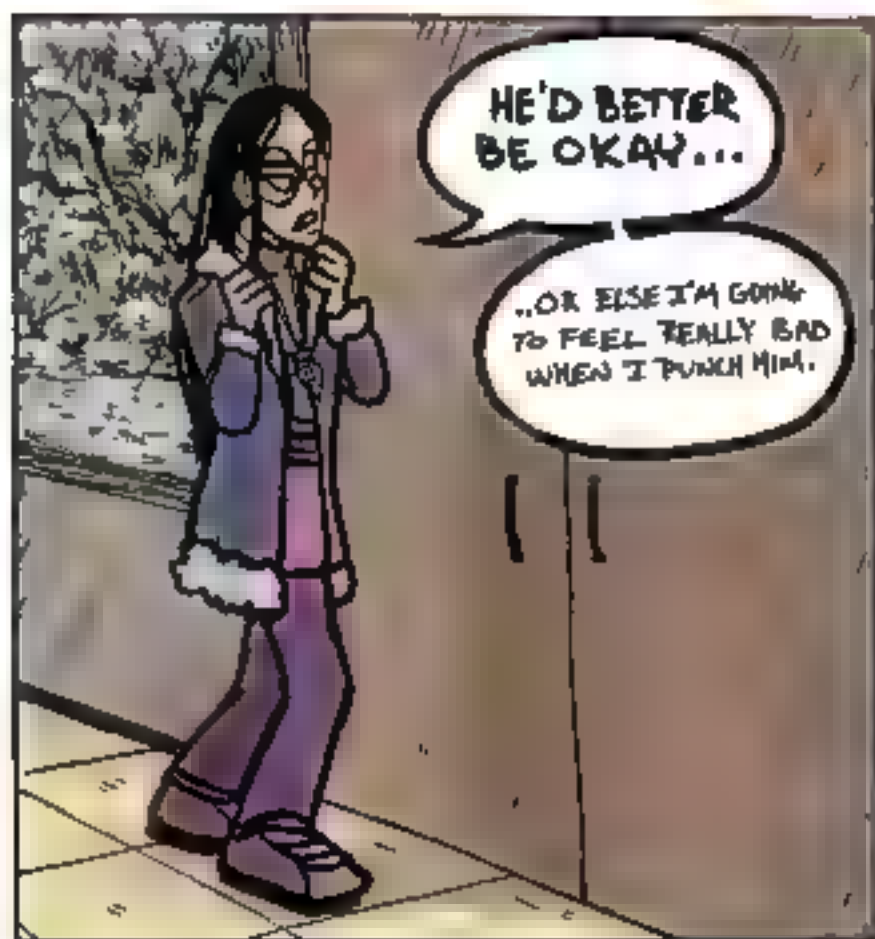
BE THAT WAY IF YOU
WANT, BUT I WOULDN'T
HAVE FOUND HER IN TIME
IF I HADN'T HEARD
HIS VOICE CALLING.

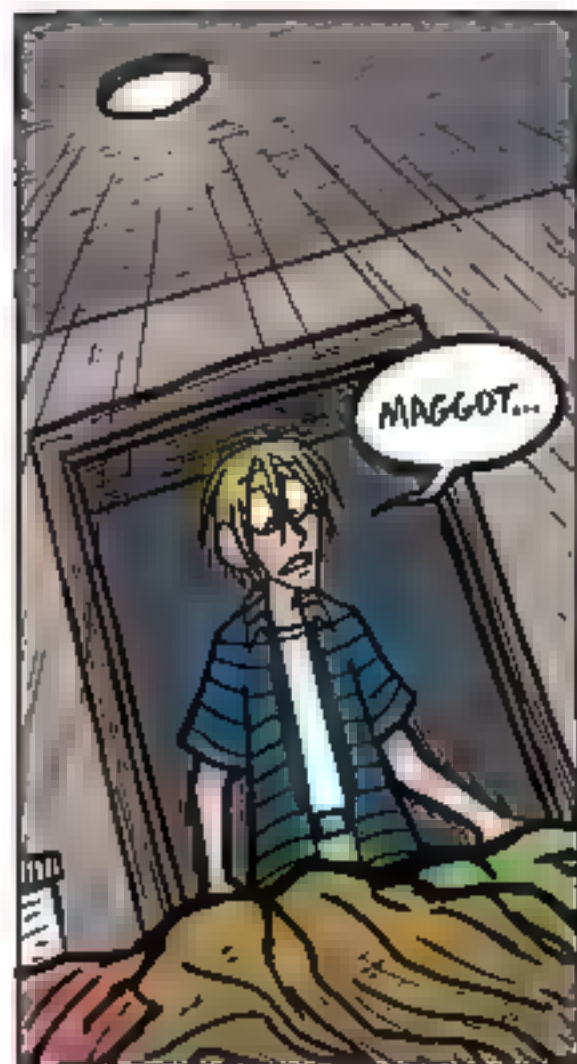
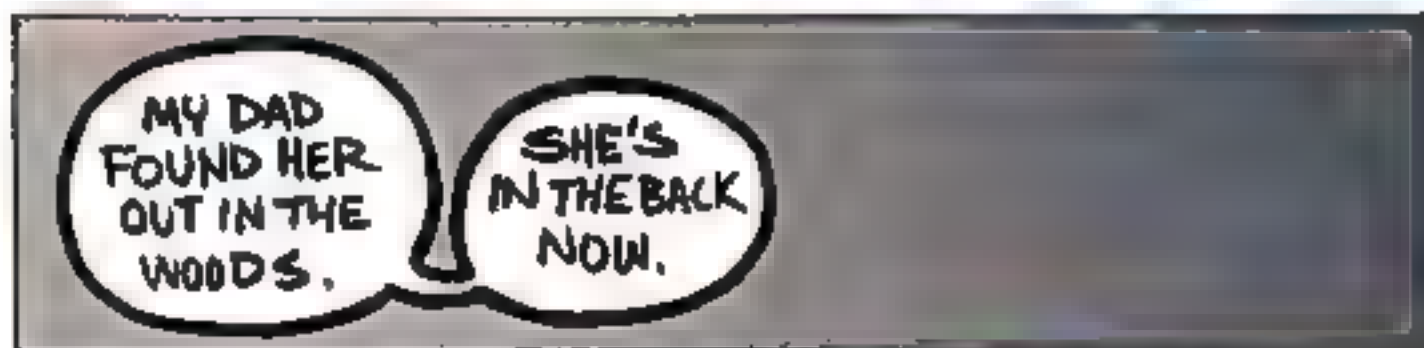
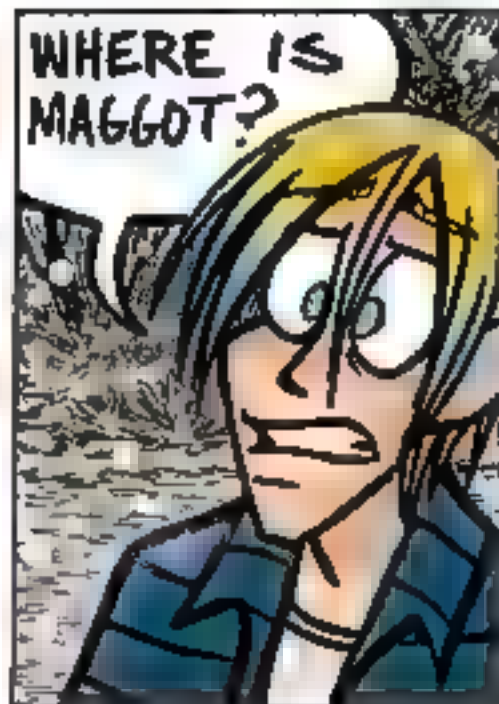
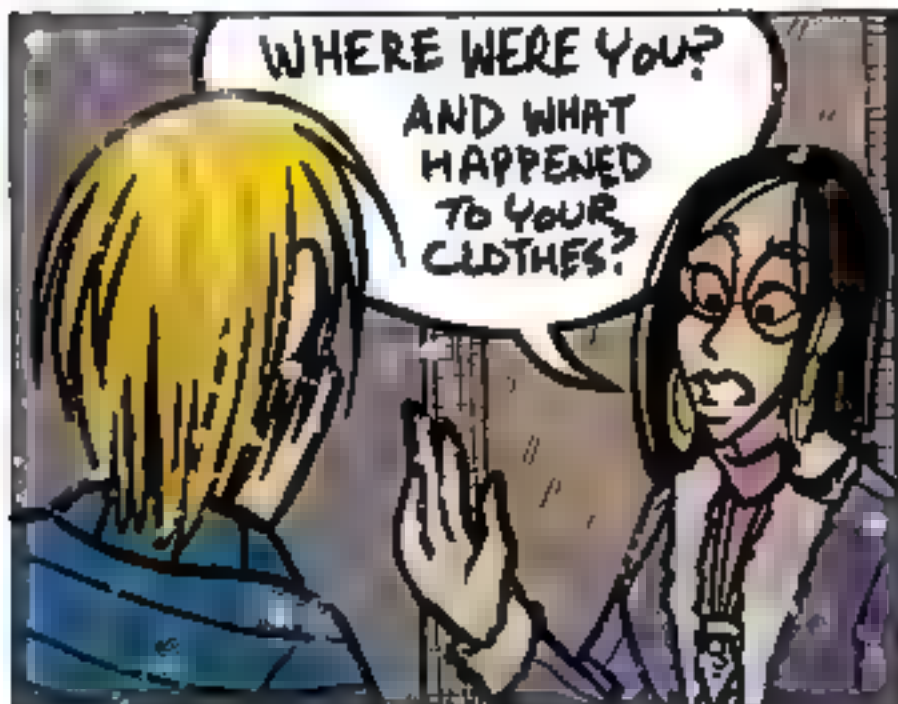


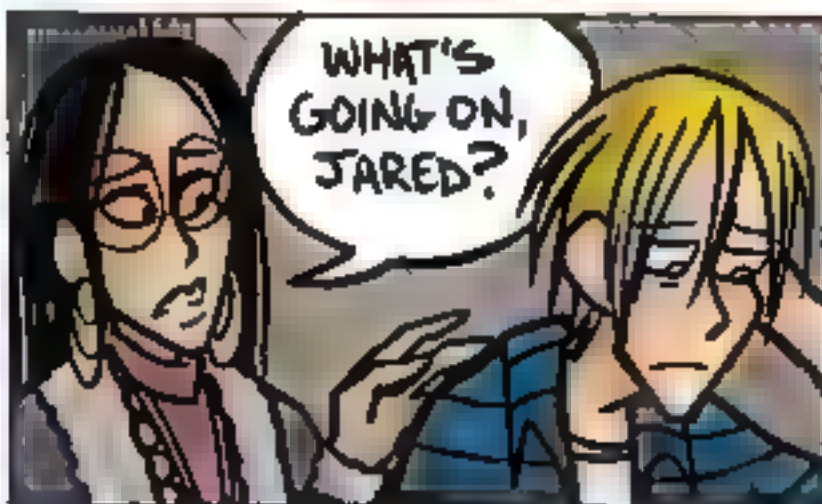
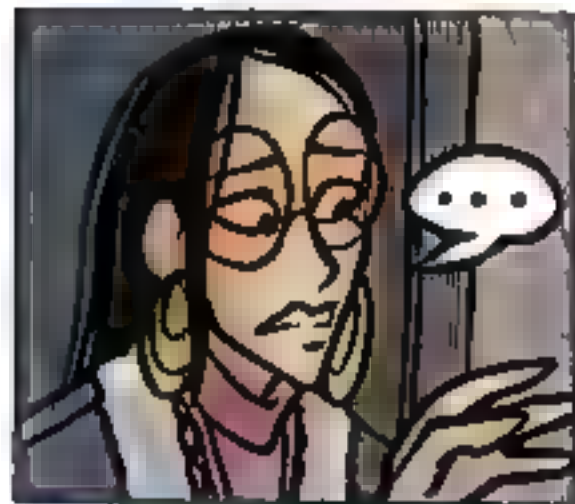
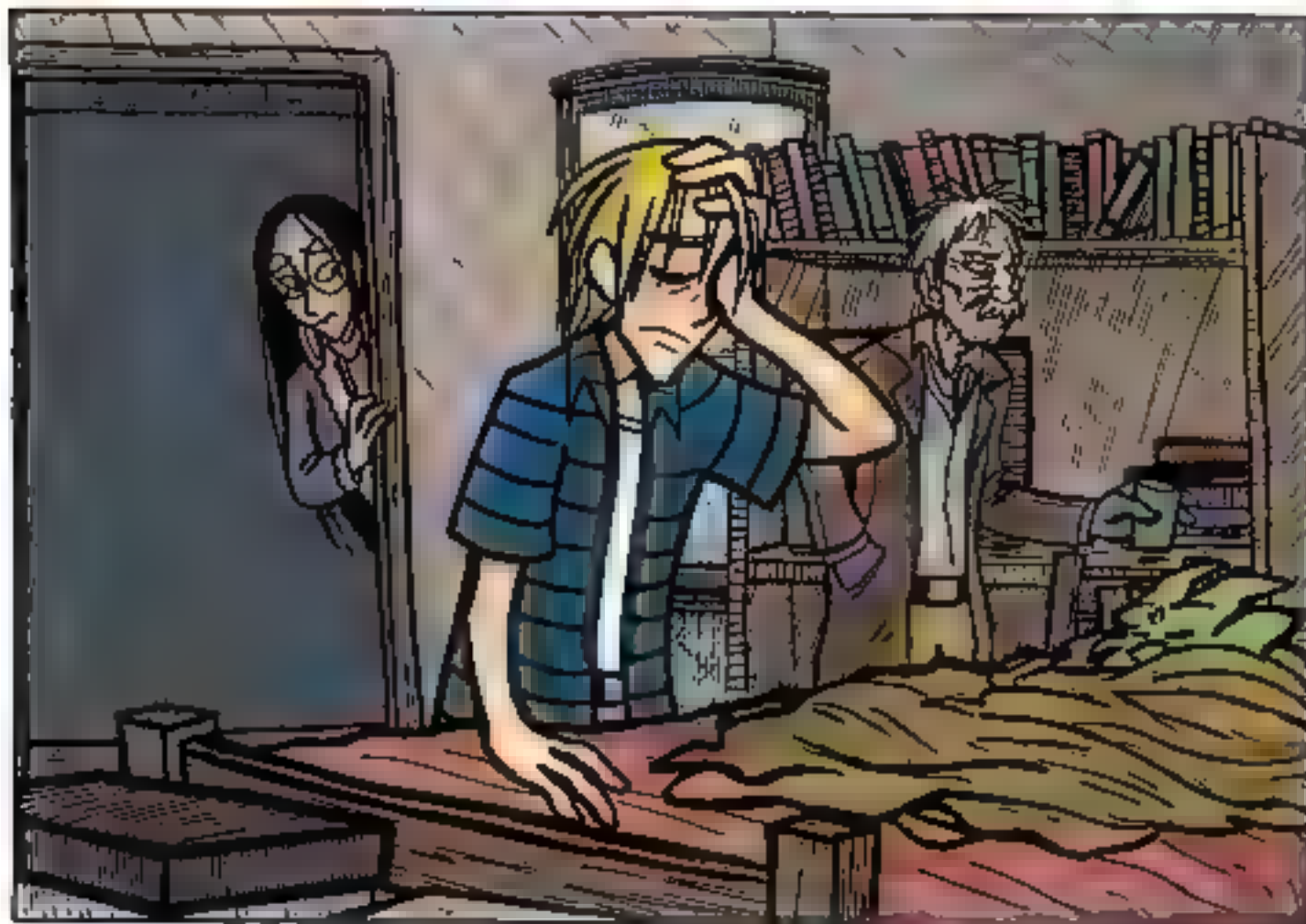
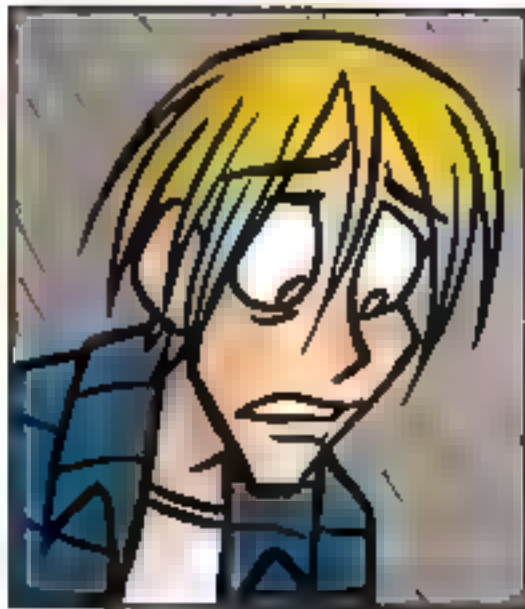
MAGGOT!!



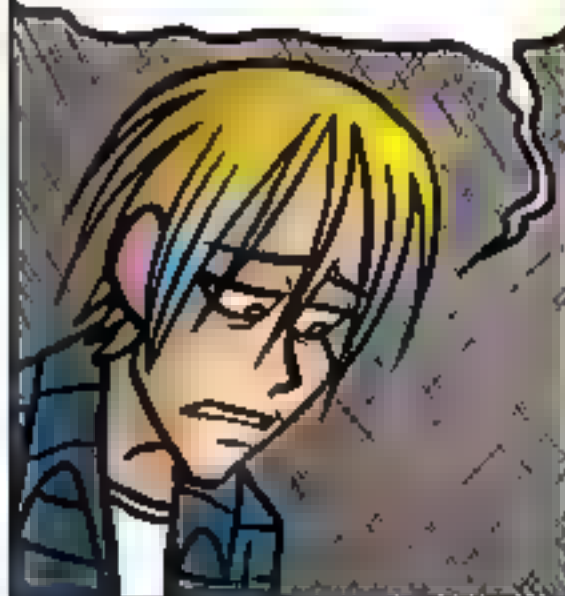
BUT BY
THE TIME
I GOT
THERE,
HE WAS
GONE.



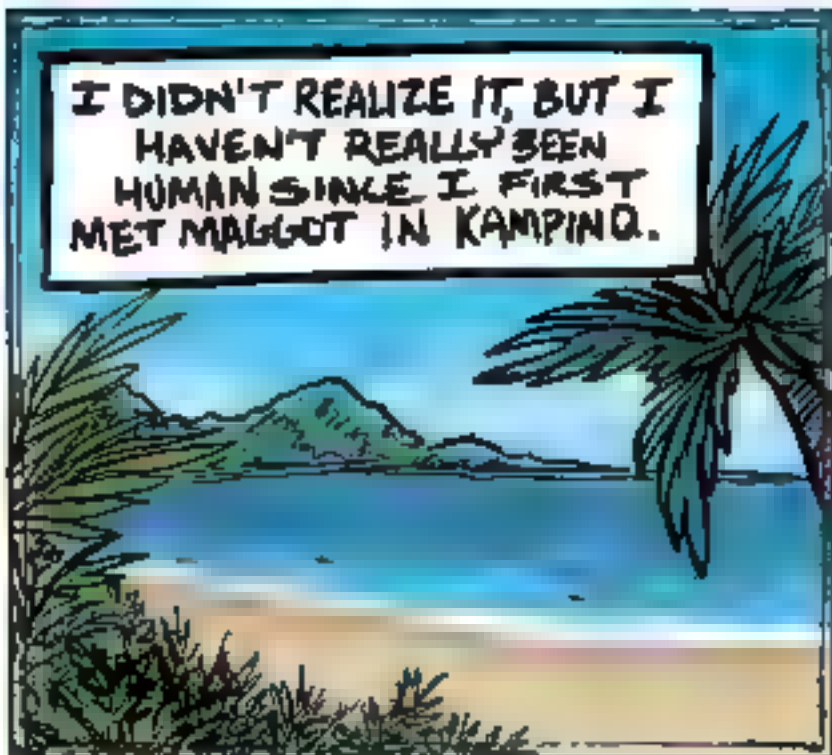




I... I HAVEN'T BEEN HUMAN FOR A WHILE...



I DIDN'T REALIZE IT, BUT I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN HUMAN SINCE I FIRST MET MAGGOT IN KAMPING.



SHE'S USED HER ENERGY TO KEEP ME HUMAN.

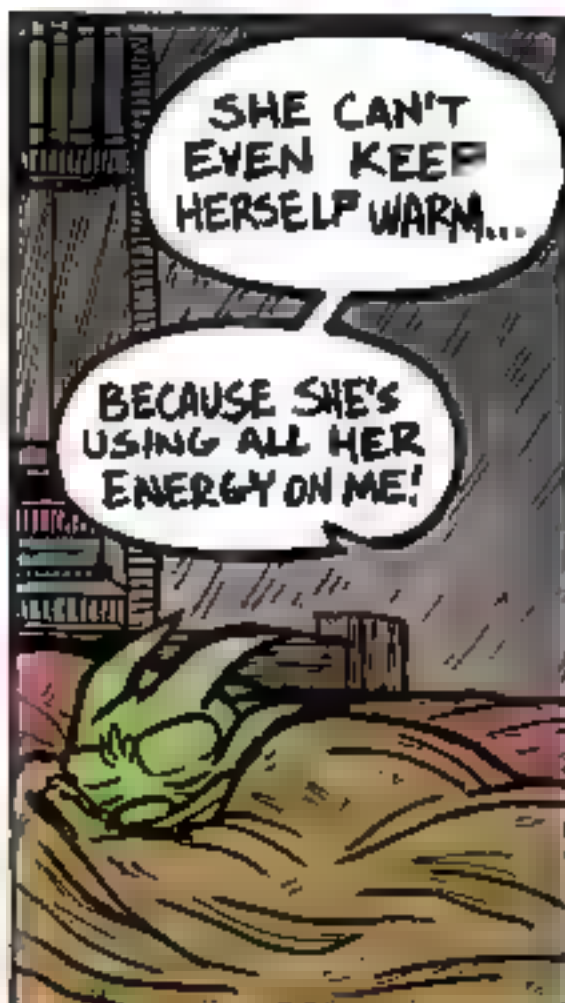


BUT IT'S HARD ON HER...



SHE CAN'T EVEN KEEP HERSELF WARM...

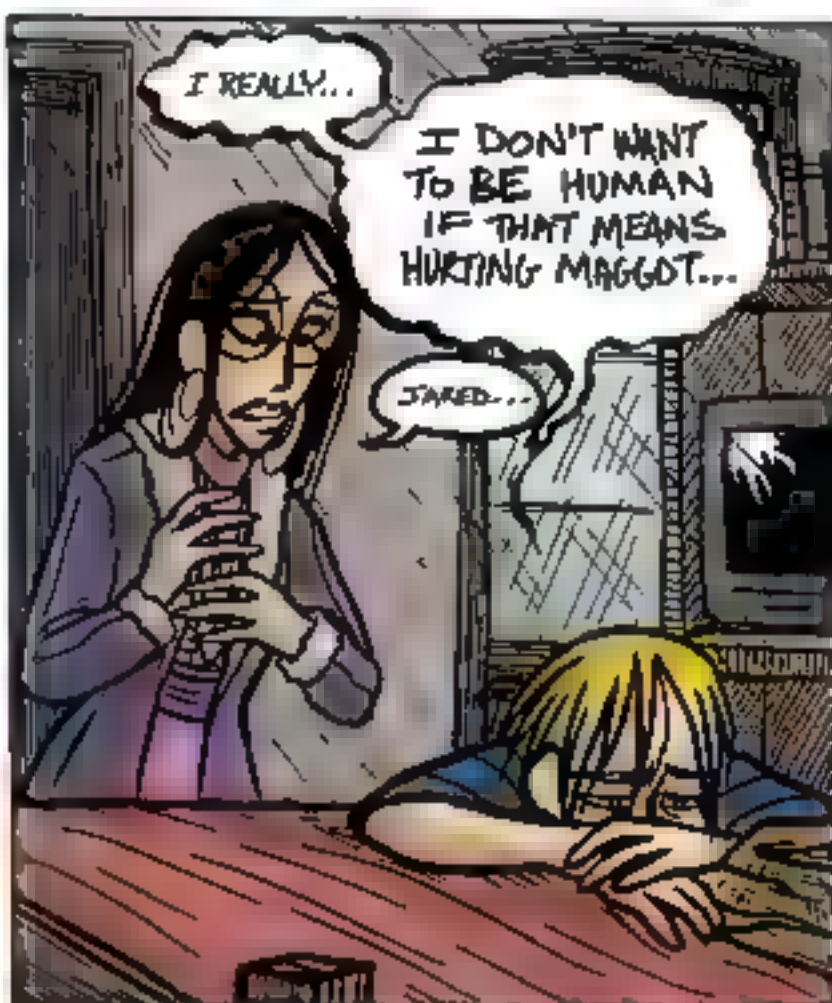
BECAUSE SHE'S USING ALL HER ENERGY ON ME!

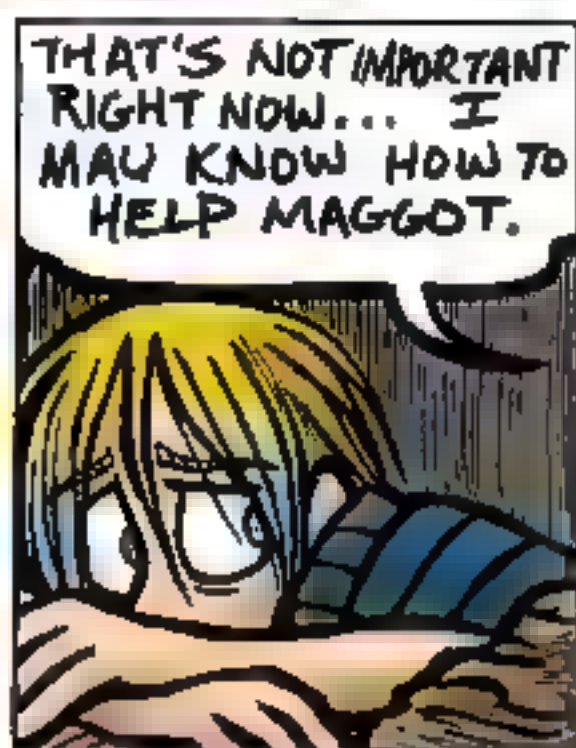
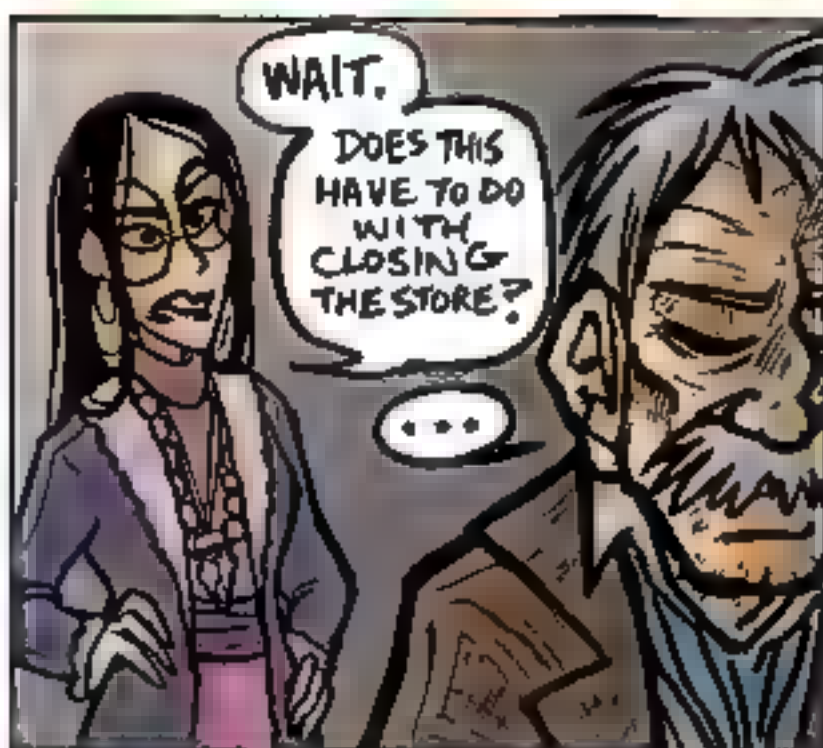
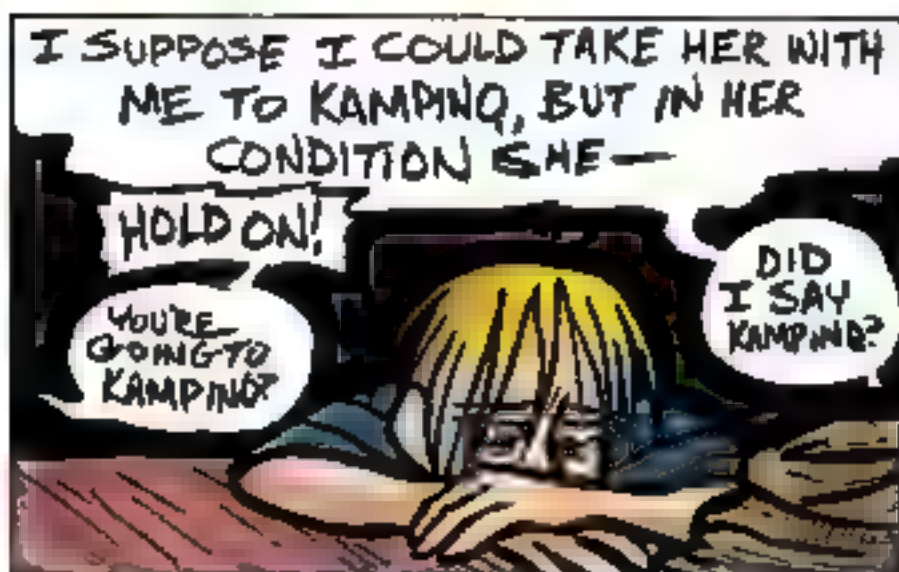
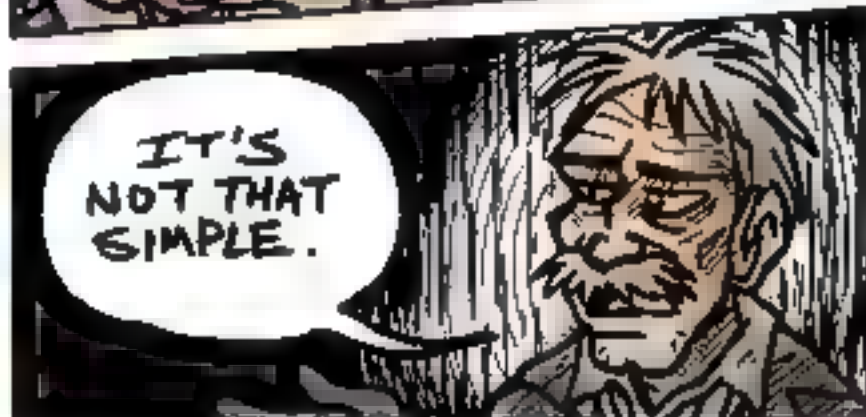
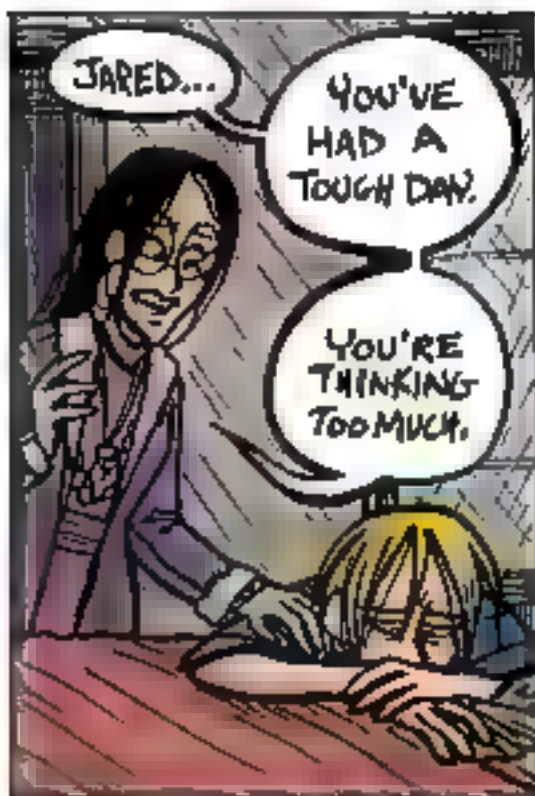


I REALLY...

I DON'T WANT TO BE HUMAN IF THAT MEANS HURTING MAGGOT...

JARED...





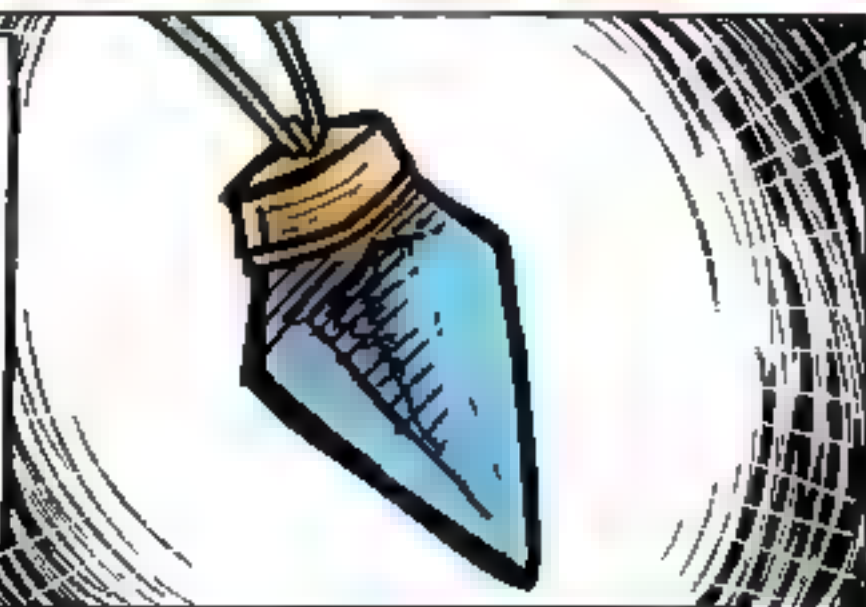
REALLY? PLEASE,
TELL ME!



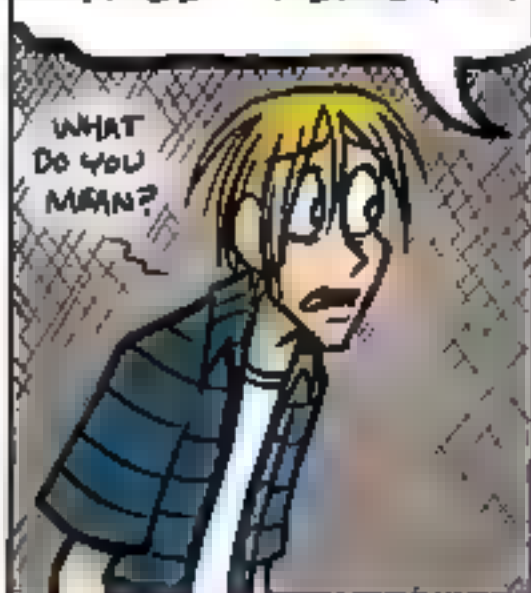
THIS IS MORE OF A THEORY, BUT
THE JEWELRY HARPER WEARS
VOIDS THE EFFECTS OF MAGGOT'S
POWER OVER REALITY ON THE WEARER.



IT MAY BE THAT IF
YOU WERE TO WEAR
ONE OF THESE ANCHORS,
IT WOULD CANCEL OUT
THE REALITY ALTERING
EFFECT SO MAGGOT
WOULDN'T HAVE TO
EXPEND HER ENERGY.



HOWEVER, YOUR SITUATION
MAY BE ... DIFFERENT.



IF IT WORKS
AND WHAT YOU
SAY IS TRUE,
THERE'S A
HIGH POSSIBILITY
YOU WON'T BE
HUMAN.



THAT'S
TOO RISKY!
WHAT IF—

I...
UNDERSTAND.

JARED ..JUST THINK
THIS THROUGH.

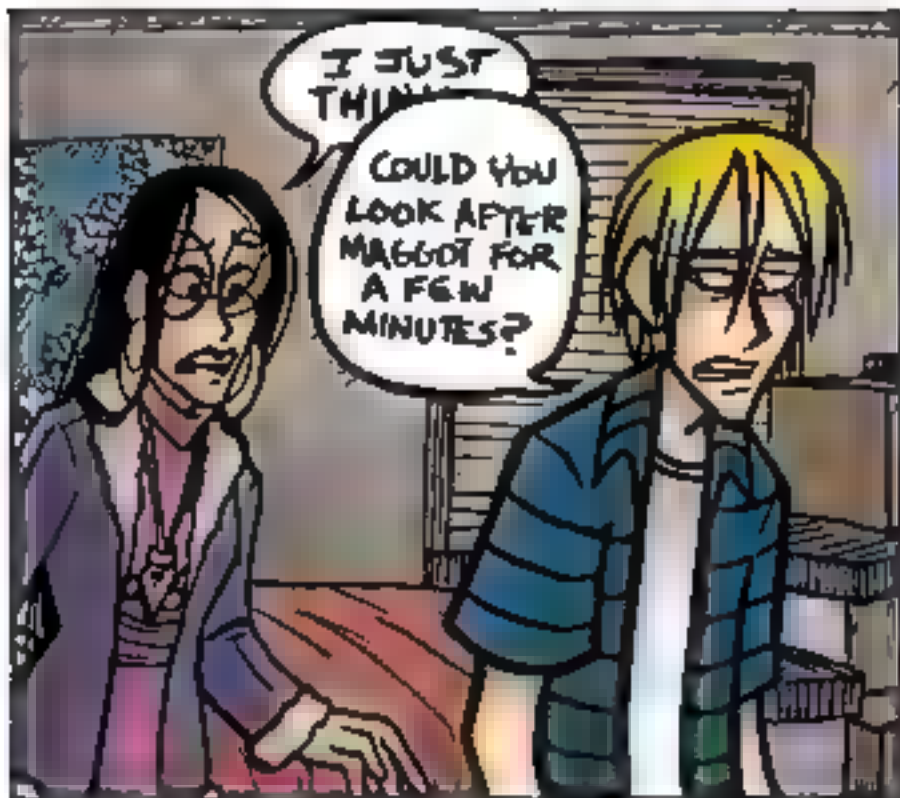
LAST TIME YOU LOST YOUR MEMORY.
WHAT IF THAT HAPPENS AGAIN?

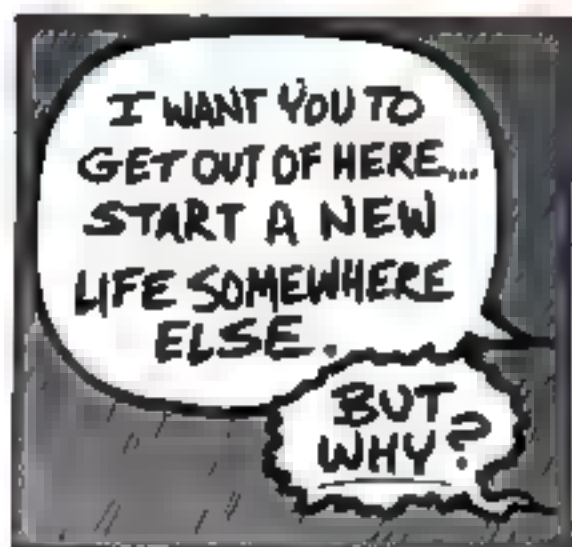
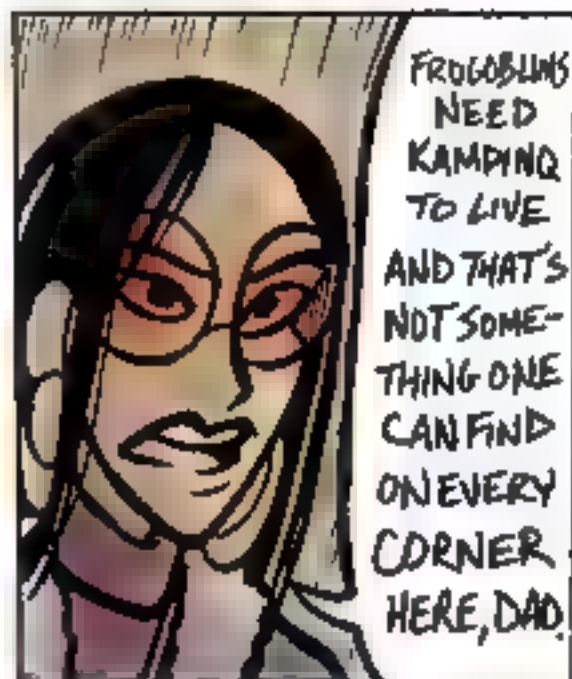
I
HONESTLY
HAVE NO
IDEA.

WHAT IF YOU
CAN'T GET IT
BACK?

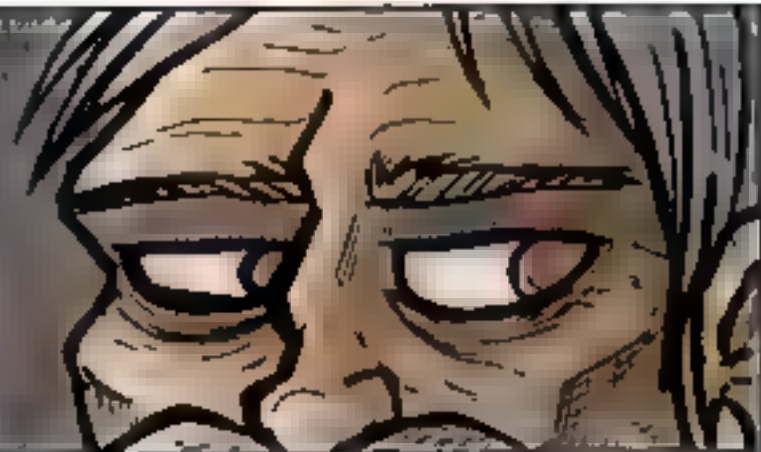
I REALLY
DON'T WANT
TO FORGET
WHO I
AM...

BUT MAGGOT WON'T
GET BETTER IF I
DON'T DO SOMETHING.





I JUST
WANT YOU
TO BE
SAFE.



AFTER WE LAST
PARTED WAYS,
I DID SOME
RESEARCH ON
THE GAUNTLET
AND ITS TWIN.
I WAS TOLD
LONG AGO THE
MATCH COULD
NOT BE FOUND,
BUT I RECENTLY
AQUIRED SOME-
THING THAT LEADS
ME TO BELIEVE
OTHERWISE.



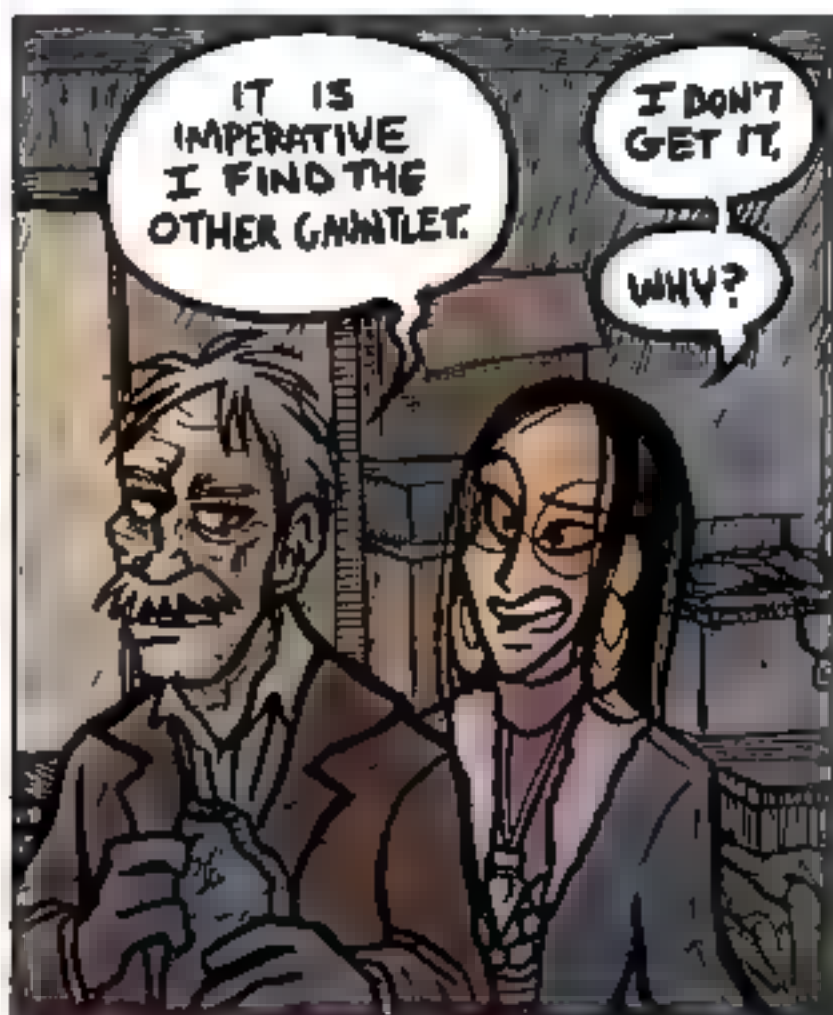
HERE
IT IS.

A ROCK?

A MAP THAT
SHOULD LEAD
TO THE
GAUNTLET'S
MATCH.

THE FIRST GAUNTLET WAS DISCOVERED
IN THE DESERT OF LOKINITI
BUT THIS INDICATES THAT THE
OTHER IS LOCATED THOUSANDS
OF MILES AWAY... ON KAMPING.





I NEVER REALLY PUT MUCH STOCK IN THE MYTHS ABOUT THE GAUNTLETS, BUT I NOW FEAR THAT TOGETHER THEIR POWERS COULD BE CATASTROPHIC.



I DON'T GET IT!

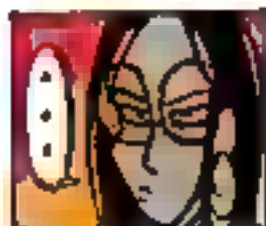
THE GAUNTLET IS WHAT YOU'RE SO WORRIED UP ABOUT? YOU AREN'T MAKING SENSE!



I AM GOING TO PACK FOR MY JOURNEY...

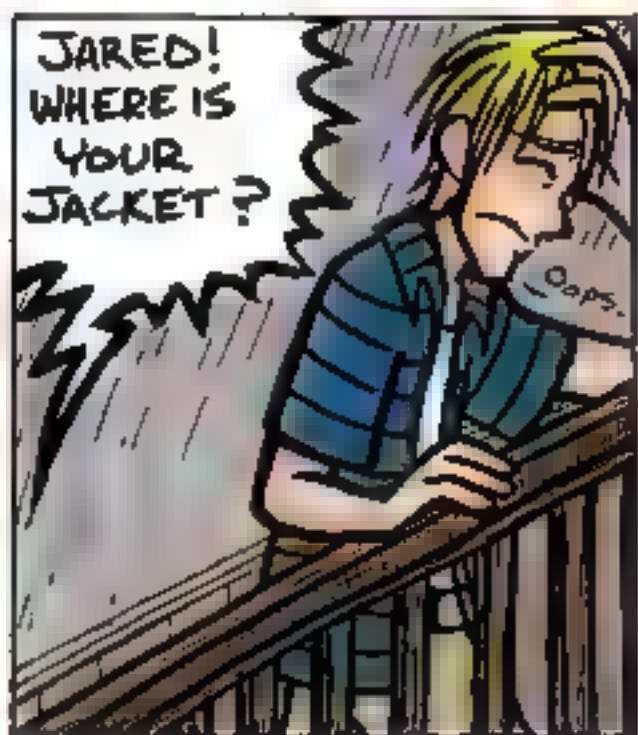
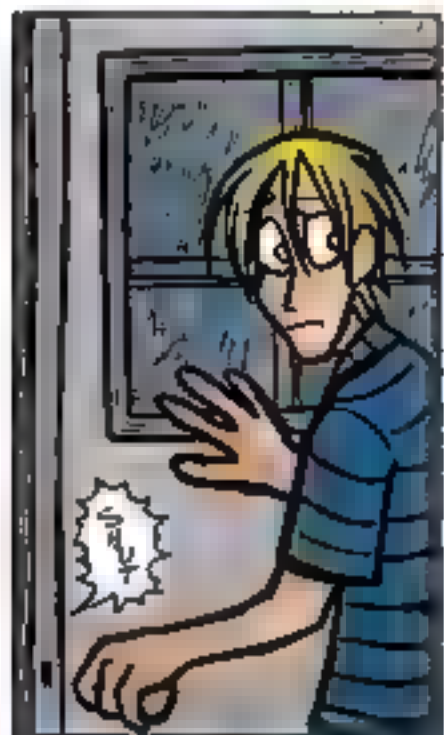
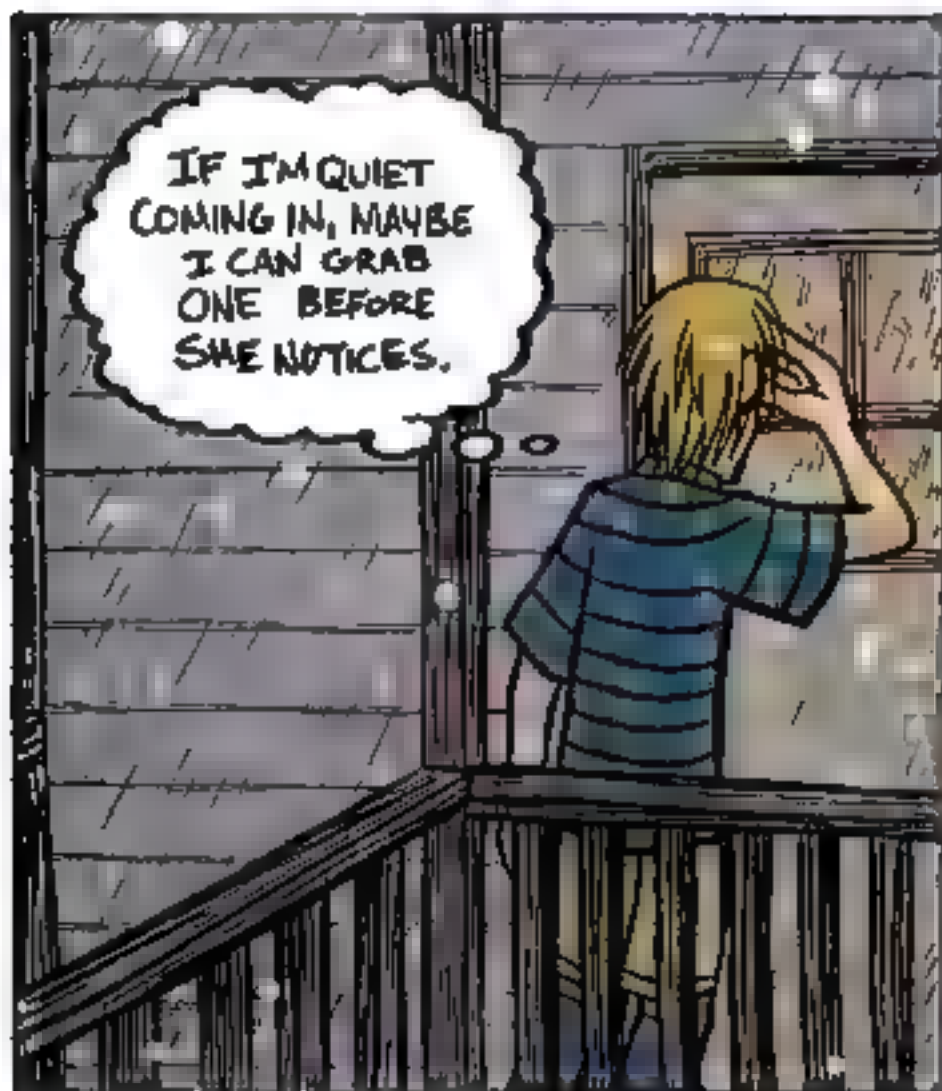
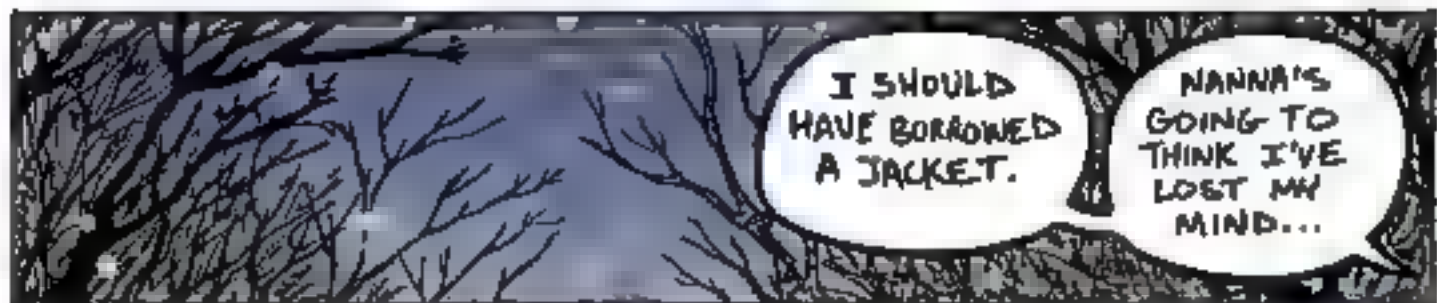
I SUGGEST YOU DO THE SAME.

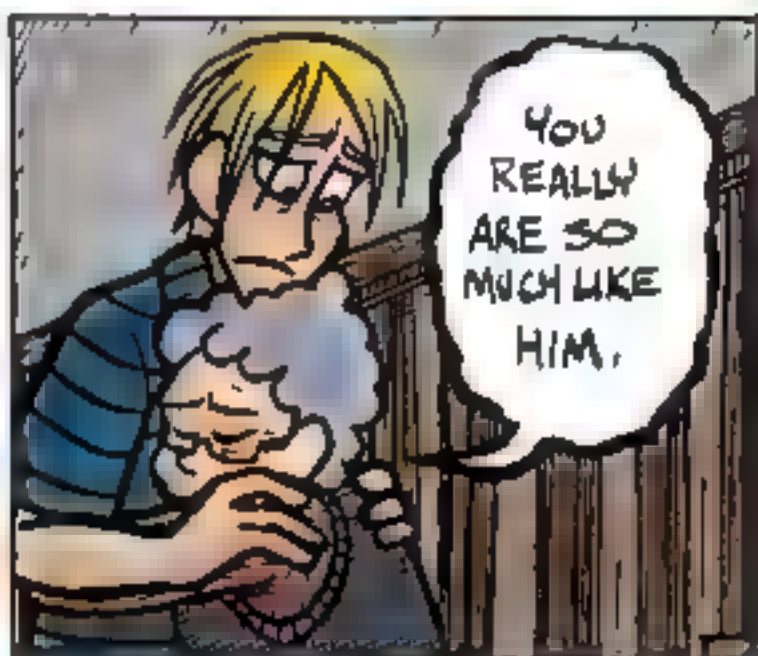
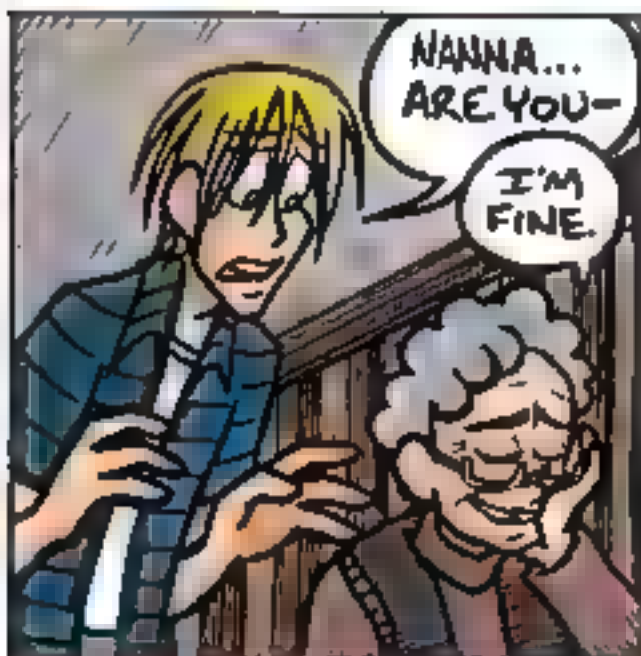
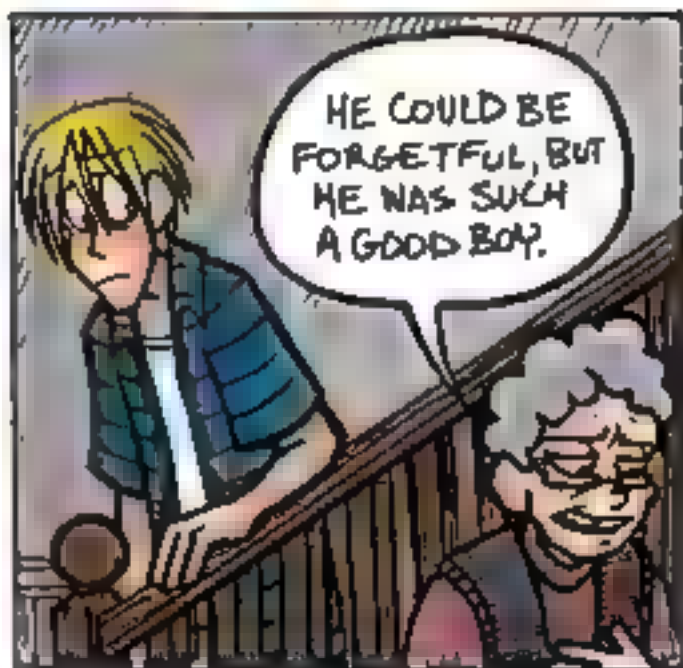
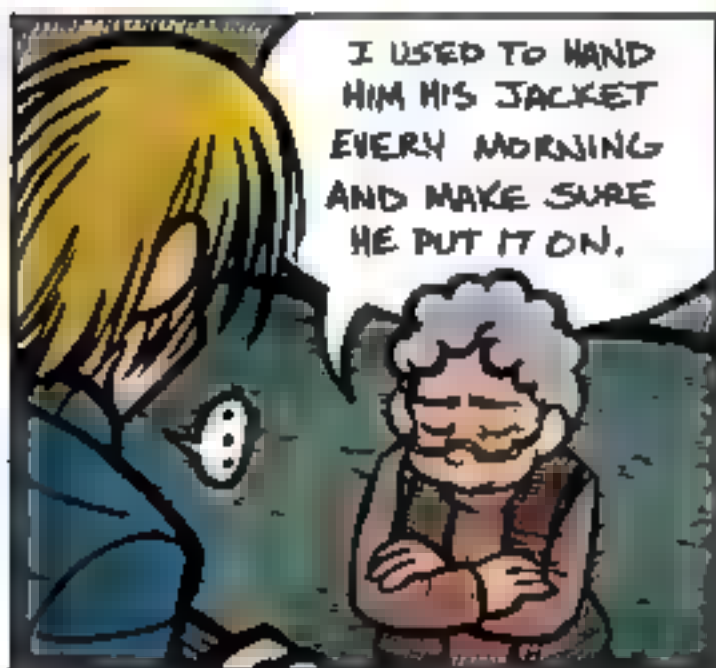
HOLD ON!

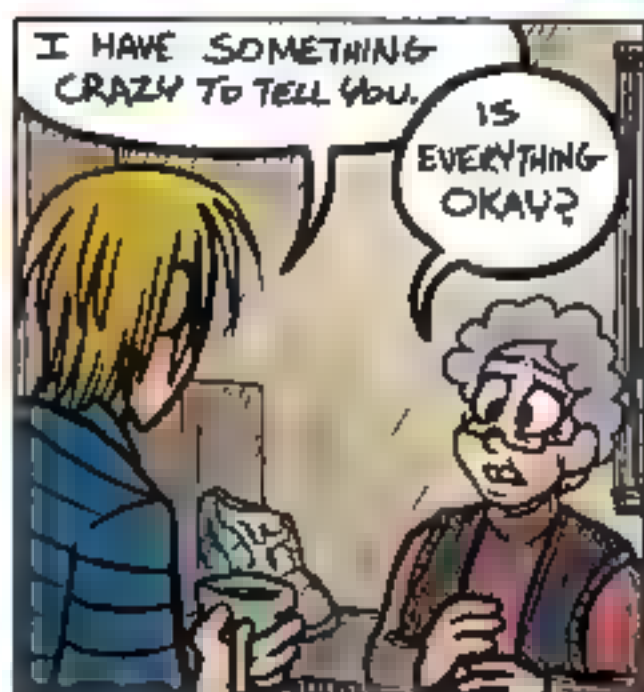
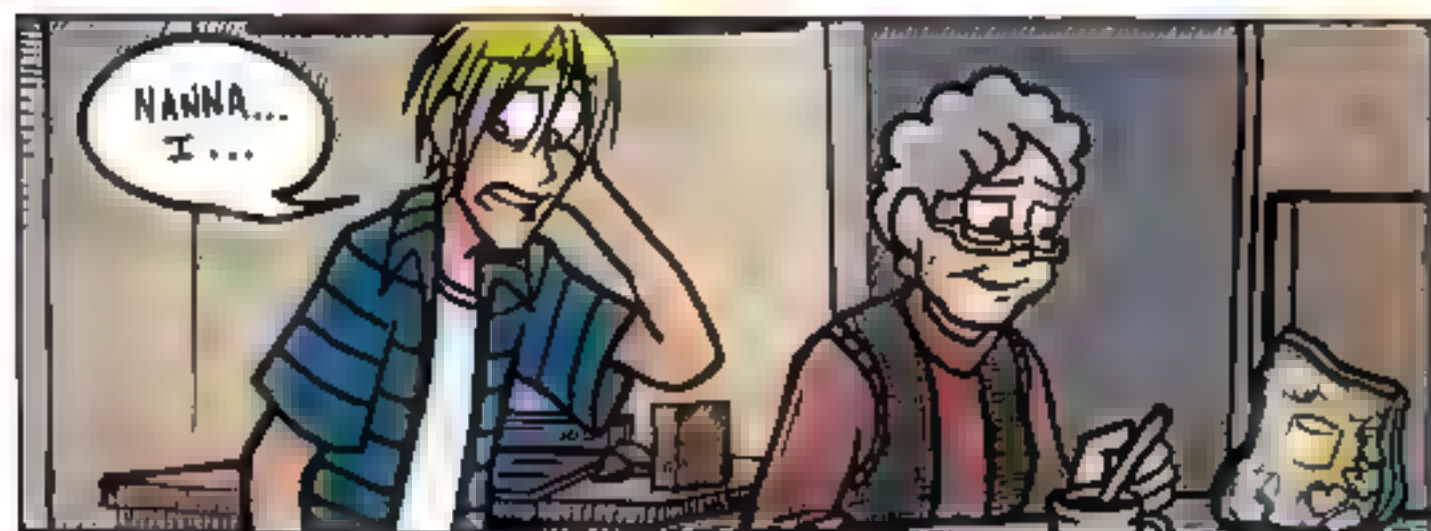


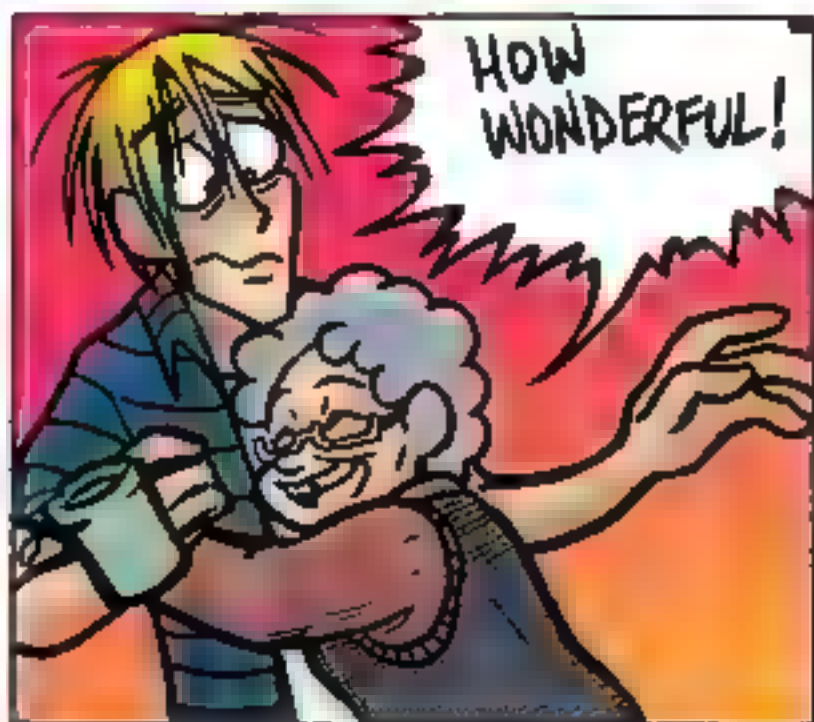
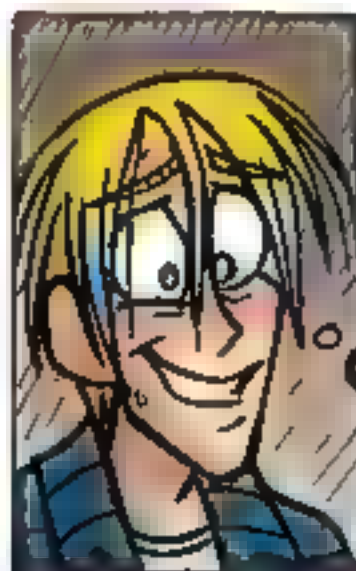
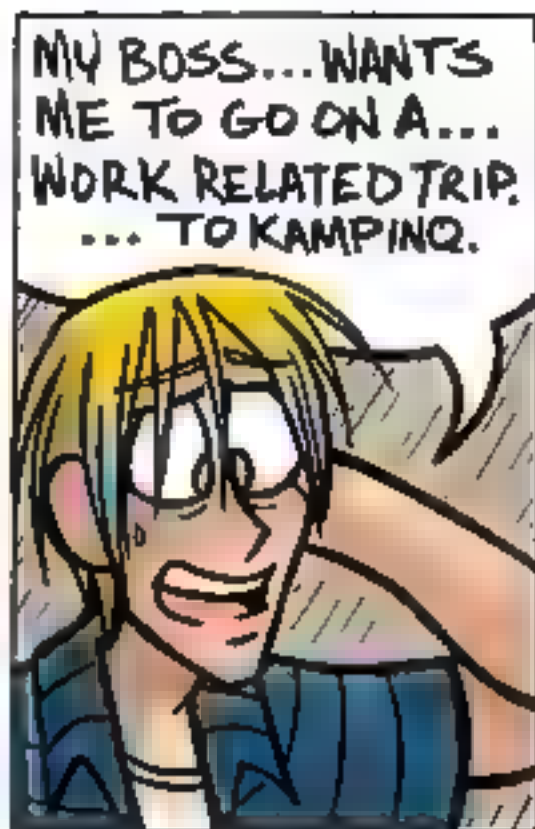
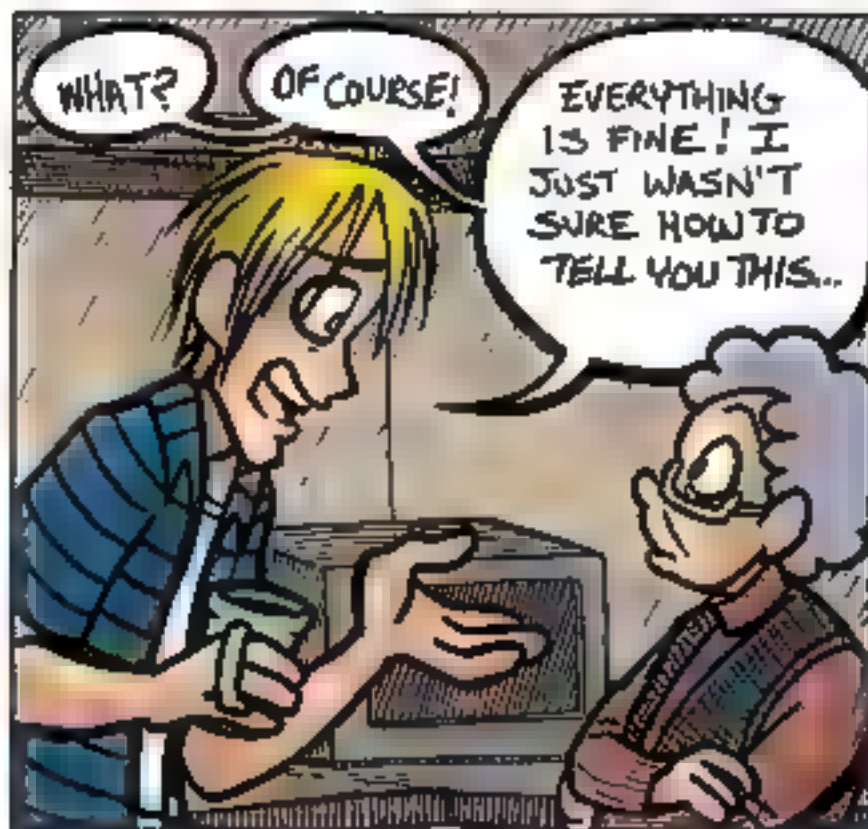
HEY! WE ARE SO NOT FINISHED WITH THIS CONVERSATION!

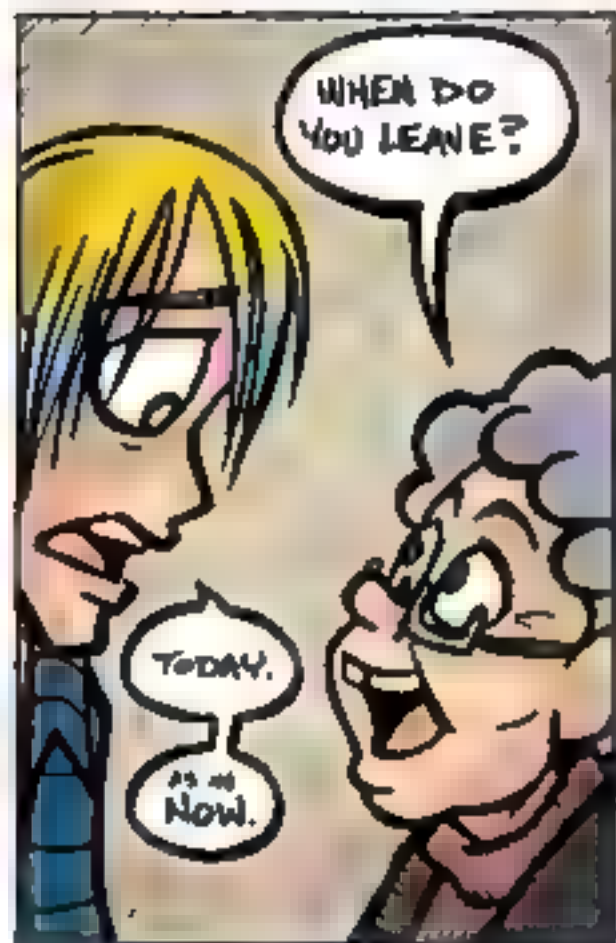


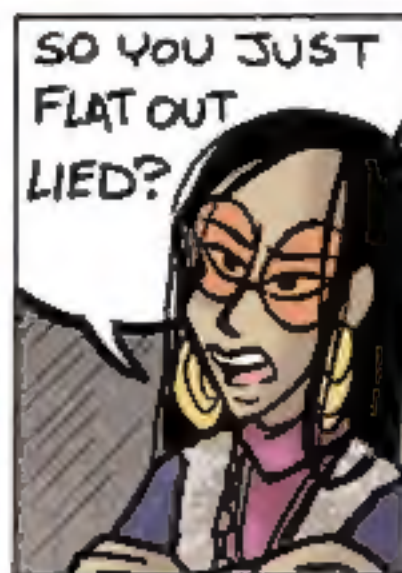
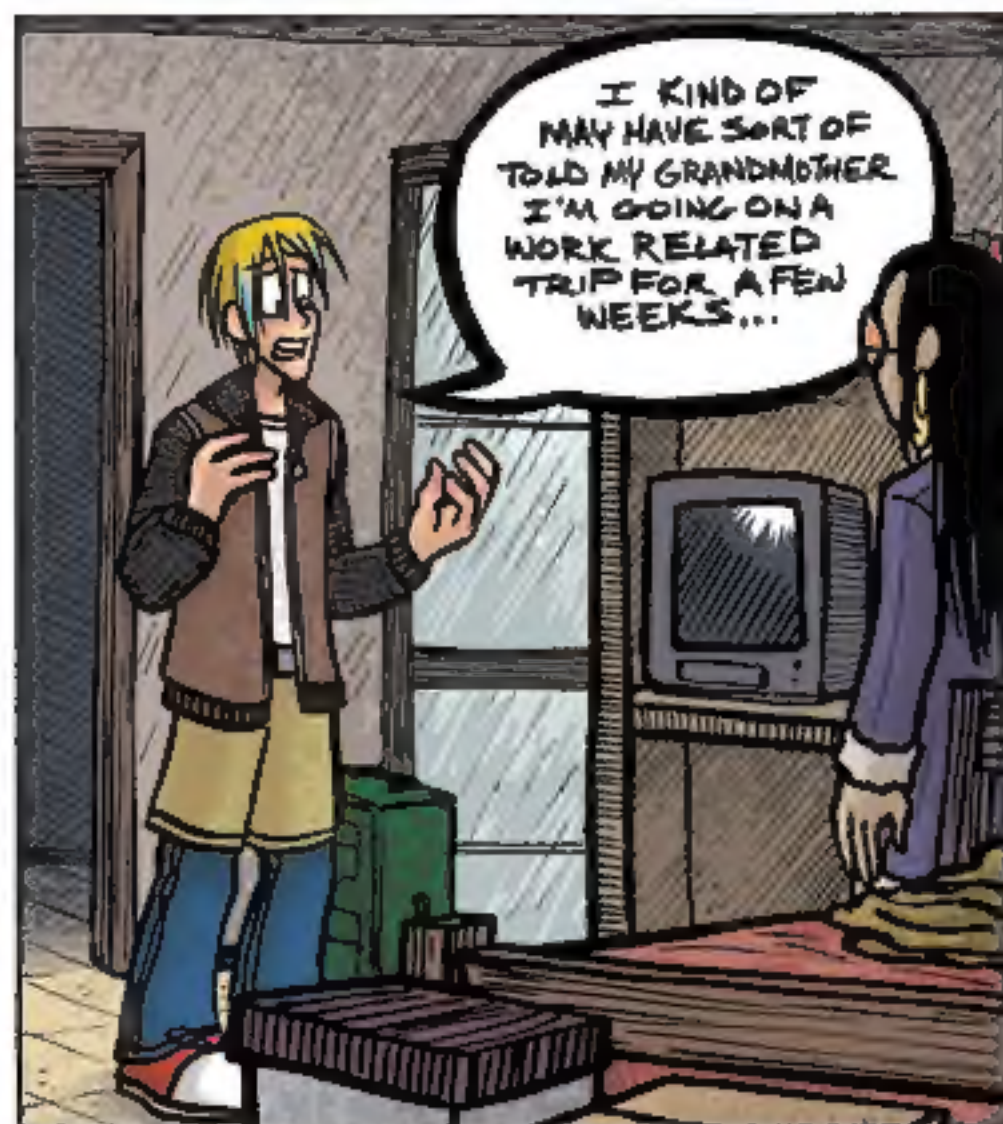


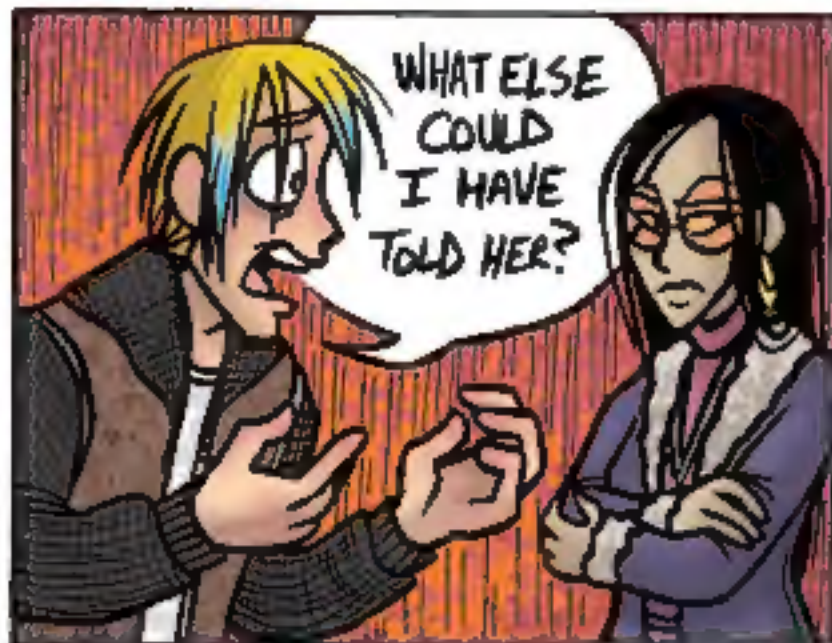












"I'M GOING TO HELP MY
INVISIBLE MYTHOLOGICAL
FRIEND AND, OH,
BY THE WAY,
THERE'S A CHANCE I'LL
NEVER BE HUMAN AGAIN!
SORRY ABOUT THAT!"



